

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Army's 'Mr. Outside,'
star during Cadets'
'40s heyday, dies**

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Glenn Davis

**Pa. university offers
troops' survivors
4-year scholarships**

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**Lee Ann Womack
returns to her
country roots**

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Volume 63, No. 326 © SS 2005 G

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005

50¢

Report faults troops for detainee abuse

No policy condoned or directed torture, admiral tells Senate Page 11

Blitz in Buhriz

Troops search
Iraqi city for
insurgents,
weapons and
explosives

Page 8

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment break down a gate Tuesday in Buhriz, Iraq, while searching the city during Operation Rock Hammer. In coming days, soldiers and interpreters will explain to city residents the reasons for the raid.

CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes



STARS & STRIPES

COMING
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Scene on Sunday

Paintball becomes
fast and furious

Scene on Sunday

Vin Diesel stars
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Flight 93 memorial: A memorial honoring the 40 people who died when hijacked Flight 93 crashed in a Pennsylvania field during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks will cost \$30 million, according to a study.

The \$30 million primarily will be used to build the memorial, but the money also will go toward roads, parking lots and a visitor's center.

A capital campaign will be organized to raise donations, said Joanne M. Hanley, superintendent of the proposed memorial.

A national competition to design the memorial yielded five finalists who have until June 15 to submit more detailed plans for the crash site near Shanksville, about 65 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. A panel will select a winning design by Sept. 11.

Brain-dead inmate: An inmate who was left brain-dead after being shot with a rubber bullet by a prison guard died from injuries from the projectile, according to an autopsy report released Wednesday.

Daniel D. Provencio, 28, was shot in the head with the supposedly non-lethal projectile Jan. 16 during an altercation at Wasco State Prison. He was taken to Bakersfield's Mercy Hospital, where he remained in a coma and was hooked to a ventilator for weeks before he died Friday.

Bus waste dumping: A bus driver for the Dave Matthews Band pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges stemming from the dumping of 800 pounds of human waste from his vehicle's septic tank onto a sightseeing boat on the Chicago River.

Stefan Wohl was sentenced to 18 months probation and 150 hours of community service, said Tom Stanton, a spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney's office. He also was fined the maximum of \$10,000, which will be paid to Friends of the Chicago River, a conservation group. Wohl, 42, of Selma, Texas, was charged with reckless conduct and discharging contaminants to cause water pollution.

World

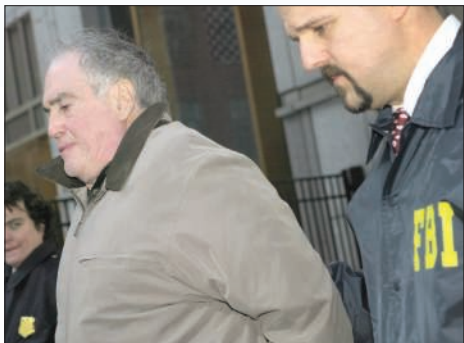
France pedophilia-ring trial: A lead suspect in a massive pedophilia trial in Angers, France, who is accused of having sexually abused his grandchildren coldly told the court Thursday: "My kids, I don't love them."

The trial of 66 people accused of involvement in the rape, sexual abuse and forced prostitution of children, including some too young to walk, moved into a new phase with the grandfather and other suspects facing detailed questions about their background and personal histories.

The grandfather, who was previously convicted of raping his son, faces life imprisonment on charges of rape and sexual abuse of minors.

Pakistan acknowledges nuke scientist: After years of denials, Pakistan admitted on Thursday that its top nuclear scientist sold centrifuges to Iran, though it stuck by its claim it knew nothing of his activities, and insisted he will not be turned over to another country for prosecution.

The admission by the nation's information minister was the first time since the



Gambino family arrests: Arnold Squitieri, center, accused underboss of the Gambino crime family, is led away Wednesday by federal agents in New York. Squitieri, the acting boss of the family, and at least 30 other mob figures were arrested after an undercover FBI agent posing as a hit man infiltrated the Mafia with an act so convincing he was considered for membership, authorities said. Also facing racketeering charges is reputed underboss Anthony "The Genius" Megale. Prosecutors said Squitieri, Megale and other defendants made millions of dollars through extortion, loansharking, illegal gambling and other crimes during the past decade.

world's atomic energy watchdog launched an investigation into Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear network that has acknowledged publicly that he sold Tehran centrifuges, a crucial component needed to enrich the uranium that can be used in nuclear warheads.

Pakistan is a key ally in the war on terror. American officials acknowledge privately, however, that Washington is frustrated by Islamabad's refusal to allow Khan to be directly questioned by American agents.

Hong Kong leader: Hong Kong's beleaguered leader said Thursday he's quitting because of failing health — not pressure from his bosses in Beijing as the global financial capital moved into a new political era that could bring power struggles, more demands for full democracy and meddling by China.

Tung Chee-hwa's resignation ended a political guessing game that dragged on for nearly two weeks in the former British colony that returned to Chinese rule eight years ago.

Pope's health: Pope John Paul II will extend his hospital stay "a few more days" but still plans to return to the Vatican in time for the start of Holy Week that begins on Palm Sunday on March 20, the pontiff's spokesman said Thursday.

No date had been given for the frail pope's return, but the announcement appeared to suggest there may have been a plan to release him earlier that was dropped

to give him more time to regain his strength.

At the hospital he is receiving only his closest aides, while back at the Vatican he might be tempted to resume regular audiences with visiting bishops and foreign officials.

Serbia war crimes: A former chief of police under Bosnia's wartime leader Radovan Karadzic was to surrender to the U.N. war crimes court at The Hague, Netherlands, the government in Belgrade said Thursday.

Mico Stanisic, who served as interior minister in the Bosnian Serb breakaway state led by Karadzic during the 1992-95 war, has decided to give himself up voluntarily after talks with government officials in Belgrade, a press release from the Cabinet said.

Recent Bosnian media reports claimed Stanisic had been indicted by The Hague tribunal and was living freely in Belgrade.

Nepal civil liberties: Nepal's King Gyanendra could soon restore some of the civil liberties he suspended after seizing power last month, the foreign minister said Thursday, a day after the government released several political detainees and promised to restore mobile phone services.

"Let me assure you that the temporary suspension of the rights of our citizens will be revoked sooner [rather] than later," Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey told some foreign diplomats in the capital, Kathmandu.

Pandey did not elaborate, but the diplomats interpreted his comments as an indication that the new royal government — which dissolved parliament and declared a state of emergency on Feb. 1 — was seeking reconciliation with political parties.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Troops in Europe affected by missing bank data

By RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

Government travel card information for thousands of cardholders in Europe is included in the missing shipment of backup computer tapes of accounts lost by the Bank of America, military officials say.

More than 7,000 soldiers in U.S. Army Europe and more than 13,000 airmen in U.S. Air Forces in Europe are among the 1.1 million Department of Defense Bank of America government travel cardholders whose data are on the missing tapes.

The U.S. Navy has not broken down the numbers by theater, but a news release from the service reports 242,000 sailors and 56,000 Marines among those with missing data.

No problems have been reported yet, officials said Thursday, although cardholders are being advised to scrutinize their accounts for any suspicious activity.

Thousands of Bank of America cardholders are being notified, but no problems reported

In a telephone interview, Lt. Col. Lilly Lopez, USAFE chief of financial services, said, "Each base finance office is notifying each individual."

Lilly provided a breakdown of bases as follows: RAF Mildenhall and Lakenheath, England, 3,649; Aviano Air Base, Italy, 2,047; Ramstein Air Base, Germany, 3,247; Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, 1,590; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, 625; Lajes Field, Azores, 1,149; Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, 328; and the 38th Combat Support Squadron, which administers geographically separated units throughout Europe, 1,296.

Col. Karen Dyson, commander of the 266th Finance Command at Schweitzingen,

Germany, said 7,590 of the 28,036 accounts under her command's purview are affected.

This does not include, she said, soldiers with the Army's Installation Management Agency-Europe or 5th Signal Command. Those cards are managed by the individual headquarters. A JIMA representative said it had 1,087 accounts affected. Numbers for the signal command were not available by press time.

Dyson said unit liaisons for the program also are contacting individuals in the wake of letters mailed to each affected cardholder by the Bank of America.

"We are receiving feedback from those cardholders that they have received those

(Bank of America) letters," Dyson said in a telephone interview with Stars and Stripes.

The Bank of America sent letters in late February to affected cardholders notifying them their account information was included in a shipment lost in December. Notification was delayed until approved by law enforcement officials conducting the investigation, the letter said.

A telephone number has been dedicated for anyone with questions or concerns. That number is 800-493-844, but is not toll-free from overseas.

Cardholders are being advised to notify the Bank of America if any suspicious activity shows up on a card statement. The letter from the bank promises scrutiny by Bank of America, too, of affected accounts.

Cardholders will not be liable for any unauthorized use of their card, the letter said.

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'Smart' tails add brains to bombs for Aviano F-16s

GPS-guided munitions are smaller, lighter, cause less damage

By RUSS RIZZO
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — When the 510th Fighter Squadron leaves for Iraq in May, the pilots' F-16s will be equipped with one of the newest weapons available to the Air Force.

A new 500-pound satellite-guided bomb, called the Guided Bomb Unit-38, is the smaller version of its 2,000-pound brother, GBU-31, that was used throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While the larger bomb was successful in destroying large targets such as Saddam Hussein's main palace in Baghdad, the GBU-38 allows pilots to take out smaller targets with less risk of collateral damage or civilian casualties, Air Force weapons experts say.

"You can use a 2,000-pound bomb to take out a tank, but it's not segmented," said Senior Master Sgt. Steven Laser, superintendent of weapons standardization with the 31st Maintenance Group at Aviano.

The GBU-38 holds 80 percent less explosive than the GBU-31, allowing the Air Force more flexibility in selecting targets during urban combat.

"We could drop in closer prox-

imity to things that we didn't want to blow up," said Maj. John Wilbourne, of the 85th Test and Evaluation Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where the bomb scored high marks in recent tests.

The bombs use global positioning satellite technology called Joint Direct Attack Munition — or JDAM — to find their targets. To make these "smart" bombs, the military attaches a new tail to "dumb bombs" that have been used for decades. Inside the tail, a computer reads GPS coordinates and adjusts the tail's rudders to move toward the target.

So add a \$18,000 high-tech tail to a Vietnam-era MK 82 bomb, and you've got a GBU-38.

The bombs can be programmed with target coordinates before a flight or by pilots in the air.

The GPS-guided bombs are alternatives to laser-guided bombs, which often could not be used in cloudy, foggy or rainy conditions,

Laser said.

The biggest advantage of the new bombs for pilots is that "you can drop them and forget about them," Laser said. No longer will pilots, or soldiers on the ground, have to keep a laser locked on a target until the explosion, Laser said. Or wait for clouds to clear before a strike.

"If you go all-GPS, you can go on any mission no matter the weather," Laser said.

An Alabama Air National Guard unit was the first to use the GBU-38 on Sept. 12, when F-16 Falcons dropped two

of the 500-pound bombs on a two-story building in Fallujah, Iraq, where terrorists were thought to be meeting, according to Central Air Forces-Foward. Since then, 84 of the 500-pound bombs have been dropped in Iraq, according to CENTAF.

And, in February, the 49th Fighter Squadron out of RAF Lakenheath, England, was the first to drop one in combat from an



To smarten a "dumb bomb," the military attaches a tail, like the one above on a GBU-31, which contains a computer that reads global positioning satellite coordinates to find its target. The kit costs about \$18,000.



PHOTOS BY RUSS RIZZO/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Michael Ward, right, and Airman 1st Class Patrick Wolf, of the 555th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy, load a 2,000-pound laser-guided bomb onto an F-16 fighter jet Thursday morning. Satellite-guided bombs are replacing this type of bomb, along with the smaller, 500-pound version.

F-15E Strike Eagle, said Capt. Joseph Siderski, a weapons officer with the squadron.

The Navy dropped its first GBU-38 weeks later, when F-117A Nighthawks unloaded two of them on another building in Iraq where terrorists were thought to be meeting, according to Naval Air Systems Command.

Members of the 555th Fighter Squadron from Aviano spent the

past month learning to load and drop the GBU-38 with Wilbourne's squadron at Eglin Air Force Base.

Pilots in the 510th Fighter Squadron won't have the benefit of practice, Laser said. But they should have little trouble, he said, since the bombs work similar to the larger version.

"Just with less of a bang," Laser said.

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Construction boom under way at Spangdahlem

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Construction is a part of life at this U.S. Air Force base in rural western Germany.

So much so that contractors have their own gate on base to minimize traffic in and out of the facility.

U.S., German and local governments are spending more than \$264 million to expand and improve the base to handle a portion of the air traffic once Rhein-Main Air Base closes by the end of the year.

The plethora of new projects has created a few headaches for airmen and their families, but many understand that the base will be bigger and better soon as the work is done.

"When I first got here, I looked around and I went, 'Holy smokes, there is just all kinds of construction everywhere,'" said Col. Dave Goldfein, commander of the 52nd Fighter Wing, the base's host unit. "I was really concerned at first, because after a while that can be fatiguing on a base. And what was interesting was when I went to talk to the airmen, they knew what the end state was going to be. ... There's a lot of ex-

citement about what's going on."

The latest in a long line of new projects is a new entrance and visitor center that will serve as a shining new gateway to a base in the midst of a major makeover.

Military officials, local politicians and members of the 52nd Fighter Wing celebrated the opening of the new gate and visitors center on Thursday. The project, part of a \$6.2 million expansion of the northwest section of Spangdahlem, is a key piece of a plan to consolidate surrounding annexes onto the main base.

Spangdahlem is home to between 3,000 and 3,500 American service members.

Once Rhein-Main closes, U.S. military cargo and passenger planes will have to use Ramstein Air Base and Spangdahlem. To

prepare for the influx of planes, more money is being poured into expanding the base to expand the runway, increase lodging, housing and other facilities.

There also are plans to build a new base exchange, fitness center, fire station and shopette, but the money has not been approved yet, said Udo Sturmer, the engineering flight chief for the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.strips.osd.mil

"There's a lot of excitement about what's going on."

Col. Dave Goldfein
Commander,
52nd Fighter Wing



Above: The new gate and visitor center at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany are part of a \$6.2 million expansion project, which is a key piece of a plan to consolidate surrounding annexes onto the main base.

Left: U.S. Air Force airmen hold the U.S. and German flags during a gate opening ceremony on Thursday at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes



'Model' students from Mannheim, Lakenheath heading for Dublin

BY STEVE MRAZ

Stars and Stripes

A future U.S. ambassador to the United Nations could be in a group of 29 Department of Defense Dependents Schools students traveling to Dublin, Ireland, later this month to participate in an international Model United Nations conference.

Students from Lakenheath and Mannheim high schools will represent other countries, draft resolutions and lobby their proposals during the March 21-24 event that will play host to 700 students from around the world.

The conference marks the first time the schools have traveled to Dublin for the gathering, said Patricia Schlachter, a Mannheim High School social studies teacher.

"This will prepare the students for real life because they are going to have to deal with people who have different opinions," she said. "But just as important, they should come to understand that the need to stand up for what your country believes in is necessary."

In working with students from as far away as India and Kuwait at the conference, Heidi McLaren, a 16-year-old senior at Lakenheath High School, hopes to offer international students an alternative to common stereotypes about Americans.

"By being a good representative and nice and caring, we can help people see that not all Americans turn a blind eye to the world," she said.

Twelve students from Heidelberg High School are traveling to Beijing, China, to participate in a similar event this month.

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Navy building named to honor captain

NAPLES, Italy — The new headquarters building for the Naval Forces Europe and 6th Fleet has been renamed in honor of a Naples-based Navy captain who worked at the facility and died in his office in January 2004.

The Capt. John E. Meyers building was dedicated at the Naval Support Activity Naples Capodichino base Thursday afternoon, Meyers' wife, Petra, and other members of his family joined with Navy Region Europe commander Rear Adm. Stanley Rozin to unveil the new name.

The building houses staff from the joint command headquarters, plus personnel from other commands, including Submarine Group Eight and Military Sealift Command Europe.

The windowless building had previously been called the C41 building, which stands for command, control, computers, communications and intelligence.

Meyers, a 1972 graduate of the Naval Academy, was chief of staff for Task Force 63 between December 1999 and the time of his death, which Navy officials said at the time was most likely from natural causes.

Airmen will compete to be USAF Idol

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Airmen will have a chance to show off their singing talents when the USAF Idol talent show is held at 7 p.m. Friday at the base theater. Competitors will sing one song accompanied by the Touch 'n' Go Band from the U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Winners of the competition, which is based on a reality talent show on American television known as "American Idol," will be eligible to compete for the title of USAF Idol at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

From staff reports

Pentagon blames e-mail on 'spoofing'

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Whoops, said the Pentagon, disregard that press release we just sent out from the Islamic civil liberties group.

Falling victim either to hackers or automated e-mail trawlers, the Pentagon's American Forces Press Service inadvertently distributed a press release Wednesday from the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

"E-mail subscribers of the American Forces Press Service today received a message, entitled 'ISLAM-INFO:NET. 'Hard-bell' Host Withdraws From Controversial 'FL Event' from a group not affiliated with the Department of Defense," read an e-mail shortly after the press release was distributed to thousands of subscribers around the world.

"A processing error resulted in the unintentional distribution of that message," the note explained.

"We have a number of people who try to spoof the system," said an official with the AFPS. "We lit-

erally get a hundred of these a day."

Spoofing is akin to impersonating — sending an e-mail out pretending to be from a known source.

He explained that hackers, as well as automated marketing computers, routinely try to break through security measures in place to prevent such abuse. Pentagon Internet guards must sift through each of them separating out hacks from actual information releases before the "send" button is hit.

"In this case," he said, "we had just migrated to a new computer system and someone hit the wrong command."

A spokesman for CAIR, a Washington-based Muslim advocacy group, said it had nothing to do with the infiltration.

"It wasn't us," said Ibrahim Hooper. "We didn't even know there was such a list."

Regardless, the Pentagon says it has boosted security.

"AFPS has taken steps to guard against a recurrence," reads the blazer, "and sincerely apologizes for the inconvenience."

E-mail Jon Anderson at: jon.anderson@strips.osd.mil

Gen.: Weather kept Marines from recruiting

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — While neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night keeps the postman away, bad weather apparently kept Marine Corps recruiters from their appointments and routes, said a Marine general Thursday.

The Corps has missed recruiting goals two months running. "It's easy to say it's the war in Iraq, but I'm not so sure," Lt. Gen. Jan. C. Huly, deputy commandant for plans, policies and operations, told a gathering of defense writers.

A harsh winter kept potential recruits indoors, and thus recruiters from signing them up.



Huly

The beginning of the calendar year is the hardest time to lure students who are just beginning to think about life beyond high school, Huly said.

But the Corps made a mistake in letting Marines eligible to become recruiters deploy to combat zones instead of the streets of America, Huly said, who has served as the deputy commanding general for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

"We didn't have as many recruiters on the streets as we wanted."

The Corps missed its February goal by 192 recruits, and January's goal by 84; the first time goals were missed in 10 years. "Let's just keep in context just how big this alleged iceberg is out there."

The service is adding recruiters over the next two years.

Additionally, the Corps is tasked with boosting its end strength by 3,000 this fiscal year for a total of 178,000 Marines.

Recruiters will not only be looking for the basic infantryman, but for Marines with an aptitude for languages, Huly said.

The Army also missed its February recruiting goals.

Army leaders have said that the failure is linked in part to public concern over the

Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, fueled by the near-daily reminders of American casualties.

To date, 1,664 U.S. troops have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more than 10,000 have been wounded.

"People are watching the news," Doug Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky., said last week. "They know the risks of military service in today's environment."

And the Pentagon's top spokesman, Lawrence D. Rita, said in early March that with a nation at war, parents are seeing their influence over their children to steer decisions away from military service.

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WWII vet struggles to get VA benefits

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Vernon Baker battled Nazis, then racism in his own country to win the Medal of Honor. Now, at 85, he's battling red tape.

Baker, the only living black Medal of Honor winner from World War II, needed emergency surgery in September to remove a baseball-sized malignant tumor from his brain.

Healthy for much of his life, the Idaho resident had overlooked the need to enroll for Veterans Affairs and Medicare benefits. When his medical bills arrived, Baker and his wife were surprised to learn the government did not intend to help pay them.

Patients must enroll with the Veterans Administration to receive benefits, and cannot be reimbursed for costs incurred before their enrollment, said Roxanne Sismore, spokeswoman for the VA.

And while some Medicare coverage kicks in automatically when a person reaches retirement age, coverage to pay doctors' bills also requires enrollment, said Peter Ashkenaz, a Medicare spokesman.

"It kind of makes me feel angry," Baker said in a telephone interview from his home in St. Maries, a town of 2,400 in the forested Idaho Panhandle, about 70 miles southeast of Spokane.

"I'm not able to take care of myself and it hurts me."

With the help of Idaho politicians, Baker has started receive-



World War II veteran Vernon Baker, 85 — with his wife, Heidi — is battling the U.S. government for medical care for a brain tumor. With the help of Idaho politicians, Baker, a Medal of Honor recipient, has started receiving some Veterans Administration and Medicare benefits.

ing some VA and Medicare benefits. And residents of St. Maries are organizing a fund-raiser to pay for thousands of dollars in medical bills he already owes.

"Someone held up as a hero all over the world, then he can't get medical coverage. No one should have to go through that," said neighbor Marilyn Fletcher, who is organizing the March 19 fund-raiser.

Baker earned the Medal of Honor citation for his courage and leadership in the battle for Castle Argonne on April 5, 1945. Army Lt. Baker had been sent to Italy with the all-black 888th Central Postal Directory. On April 5, Baker and his men were behind enemy lines in the battle for Castle Argonne.

Marilyn Fletcher
neighbor

Aghinolfi near Viareggio, according to Army records.

His white commanding officer ran when the fighting started, ostensibly to seek reinforcements who never arrived, Baker wrote in his book, "Lasting Valor."

With German fire decimating the Americans, Baker took charge, moving from one machine gun nest to another, killing the enemy soldiers inside. Then he

covered the evacuation of his wounded comrades by taking an exposed position and drawing the enemy's fire, according to Army records.

The next night, Baker voluntarily led an advance on the castle through enemy mine fields and heavy fire.

In all, Baker and his platoon killed 26 Germans, destroyed six machine gun nests, two observer posts and four dugouts. Their heroism enabled the Allies to take the castle shortly thereafter. Baker was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, making him the most decorated black soldier in the Mediterranean Theater.

What he didn't know was that his Medal of Honor nomination had been blocked by a military establishment that did not want to give the nation's highest honor to blacks. In 1993, Army officials contracted Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., to learn if any black soldiers had been improperly denied the Medal of Honor. The university recommended 10 soldiers. From that list, Pentagon officials picked seven.

Baker was the only recipient still living and received his medal from President Clinton in 1997. Baker stayed in the Army after the war and retired to St. Maries in 1968. Baker is trying not to let the financial woes get him down.

"I'm hanging in there," he said. "Today I feel pretty good."

Remains of Texas GI returning home after missing for 60 years

BY BILL HANNA
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — A shoving brush.

A piece of a comb.

Part of a boot.

A worn set of dog tags.

These clues helped unearth a 60-year-old mystery about the whereabouts of Pfc. Preston "Pug" Harris.

In November 1944, the 23-year-old soldier from Greenville, Texas, was part of the 405th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division that was fighting along the heavily fortified Siegfried Line near the German-Netherlands border.

The regiment's records state that Harris was killed Nov. 22, 1944, near Beek, Germany. He was eight days short of his 24th birthday.

Harris was officially listed as killed in action, but the location of his body was unknown. The family was told that he might have been buried in an unmarked grave at a military cemetery in the Netherlands.

His family knew little else.

"One of my other uncles wrote one of the men in Preston's unit who said they were in a field when an 88 [mm] round came in on him and the other guy, and that was it," said Harris' nephew, Knighton Hudson, 50, of Wylie in North Texas.

The first step toward solving the mystery occurred in June 2003 when a German company that was removing unexploded ordnance from the battlefield uncovered human remains in an unmarked grave.

The personal items found in the grave led officials to believe they had discovered a U.S. soldier's remains. The remains were transferred to the Hurler War Ceme-

tery and later to the U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Facility in Landstuhl, Germany.

A team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii came to the Beek area in June, excavated the site and took possession of the remains, Hudson said.

After examining dental and medical records, the investigators were able to identify Harris.

A military representative visited Harris' family in February and returned some of the personal items that had been recovered.

Bob Mason, general manager of Peters Funeral Home in Greenville, said his staff did a double take when they first learned the date of Harris' death.

"It was a very interesting thing when we started talking about a death that occurred on Nov. 22, 1944," Mason said.

Harris' military funeral is scheduled for March 12 in Greenville. But the service won't include a ceremonial rifle volley. "My grandmother didn't want that," Hudson said. "She felt like he already had enough shooting over there."

Harris was the youngest of 10 children. The only surviving family member is his 89-year-old sister, Maple Harris Hudson. Knighton Hudson said his mother is still coming to terms with the discovery of her brother's remains. "She was kind of in shock," Knighton Hudson said.

"She basically figured for the last 60 years that he was buried somewhere over there and then all of the sudden, she finds out he's been found."

"I think more than anything she was heartened that she was able to fulfill her mother's wishes to bring him home. I really don't think it's hit her yet."



Pfc. Preston Harris



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Operation Rock Hammer strikes Buhriz



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division enter a village near Buhriz, Iraq, on Tuesday while searching for weapons, explosives and insurgents during Operation Rock Hammer.

Soldiers search Iraqi town for insurgents, weapons

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

BUHRIZ, Iraq — The mission starts with a bang. A handful of artillery explosions crack through the pre-dawn sky, waking up the sleeping community. Fighter jets streak overhead, leaving a trail of sonic booms in their wake.

"Psychological warfare; it might make a guy think twice about picking up his AK-47," said Capt. Ryan Howell of St. Louis, commander of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, part of the 42nd Infantry Division's Task Force Liberty.

Operation Rock Hammer has begun: Now 500 troops — 375 American and 125 Iraqi soldiers — will blitz through Buhriz to seize illegal weapons, explosives and insurgents; they're especially on the lookout for two men suspected of leading election day attacks against polling stations.

Buhriz's 60,000 residents live in a place that offers strange mixes of primitive living and technological wonders, often under the same roof. A house might not have flush toilets but it does have a satellite dish on its roof.

For soldiers with vehicles, Buhriz can be difficult to enter since there are only two ways in and out, a road on either side of town.

But insurgents who know the terrain have many places to hide in the maze of homes and shops. Escape routes run through the acres of surrounding palm and date groves and across the Diyala River.

"I'm pretty excited that we're actually going out and doing something," said Spc. Robert Atchison of Gainesville, Fla. "We're going after the guys who are causing all the havoc."

Special operation soldiers and a group of select Iraqis led the way into town, targeting seven sites — four residents and three shops — suspected of harboring the top suspects and their cohorts.

For their role, the soldiers of Battery A look for weapons caches and fleeing suspects on the scores of goat trails running like a maze through the woods.

"There's a whole network of trails back here, and they're all well-worn," said Pfc. Keith Peacock of Las Vegas after one foray into the brush.

Searching the surrounding areas and city represents a gray area in the current state of security af-

fairs, Howell said. It is too insecure for normal police activity (if a normal police force existed). But in trying to win the peace, rolling tanks through town isn't the answer.

"Clearing operations don't always yield a lot," Howell said. "Sometimes you can make more enemies than you do friends. It also let's people in the neighborhood know — 'don't harbor these guys.'"

"The police couldn't do this back in the States, but until police stations here stop getting mortared ... Residents who can't fix anything damaged during a search, Howell said, can bring evidence of the damage along with three repair estimates to the Civil Military Operations Office in nearby Baquba. If they were innocent of wrongdoing, the victims can be reimbursed cash for the damage.

For all the firepower, it turned out very little was needed. There were no casualties, Howell said, either military or civilian.

Of the 11 detainees, Howell said, six tested positive for traces of explosive compounds on their hands. Neither Saddam Septi nor Dawoud Karim Hanan were captured.

The four hot spots detected by the helicopter turned out to be nothing.

The final haul of weaponry was fairly modest. Several AK-47 automatic rifles with ammunition were found, as well as a homemade rocket launcher, two rocket-propelled grenades and some mortar rounds. Howell said that three improvised explosive devices were found and blown up.

That could be a good sign, he added, indicating that perhaps people there were buying into a future Iraq that was democratic and non-oppressive.

"Everybody was expecting a little more action, a little more hype," Howell said. "Of course, we're not out of the woods yet. There could be some surprises on the way home."

There weren't. There were just a few gales. Some kids waved to the passing troops. One person threw a rock that hit a passing Humvee. Most people just stood and watched.

The operation would be followed up in coming days with soldiers and interpreters explaining to residents of Buhriz the reason for Tuesday's actions.

"We'll tell them, 'This is why we did this,'" Howell said.

E-mail Charlie Coon: cooncc@mail.stripsides.odm

GI's detain 11 suspected of election-day attacks

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

BUHRIZ, Iraq — Soldiers detained 11 people Tuesday as part of Operation Rock Hammer, a search mission Tuesday in Buhriz, a city of 60,000 on the outskirts of Baquba.

"Most of the detainees were directly involved in the attacks on election day in Buhriz," said Capt. Jason Staraitis of Youngstown, Ohio. "There were very big attacks, and this population didn't have a very good turnout for the election."

The purpose of the 42nd Infantry Division operation, conducted by 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, was to arrest suspects in city attacks and to find weapons and explosives. Detainees were brought to a hollowed-out brick building on the city's edge.

"We search the detainees and safeguard them in this building," Staraitis said. "In case we take fire, we want to make sure they're safe."

Staraitis said the detainees were found at sites identified as places where insurgents were living or hiding. They were searched and photographed and had hands put over their heads. Their hands were tied behind their backs as U.S. soldiers stood guard.

They eventually would have their thumbprints scanned and would face interrogation by intelligence officers.

"We don't want them to see our faces, and we definitely don't want them to know who [the other detainees are]," Staraitis said. "That way they won't know what the other guy said."

A little loco?

During the perils of war, soldiers sometimes need a studying presence to help them hold their nerve. Chaplain (Capt.) Derek Murray was ready to serve as the conscience of Tuesday's operation.

Murray, of North Berwick, Maine, was present to give reassurance to the wounded, compassion to the scared, and guidance to soldiers guarding the Iraqi detainees.

"I'm sort of the ethical thermometer," Murray said. "For example, God forbid if we ended up fighting in that cemetery over there. It would be a huge ethical and spiritual affront to these people. We would be encroaching on their faith, sort of like if we entered one of their mosques."

Murray, who goes unnamed to



the operations, said he likes being the "moral" or "spiritual" guy.

"You have to either be crazy or have a calling to be a pastor in these situations," Murray said.

"I'm probably a little of both."

It's a bird ...

While some soldiers made their way into downtown Buhriz and searched homes and shops, others worked on the edge of town trying to ensure a safe trip back to base. One tool they used was the Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, or UAV.

The hand-launched UAV is a battery-powered aircraft that weighs about 4 pounds. A small propeller powers it through the sky as a video camera in its nose feeds pictures of the ground below to soldiers. From the ground, it sounds like a big mosquito flying overhead.

"We're flying over the routes back [to the base], searching for anyone planting roadside bombs), searching rooftops and sniper positions," said Spc. Gary Freis of Tucson, Ariz. "We haven't seen anything yet. They've got the road pretty well protected."

Fries said the UAV has a top speed of about 40 mph but a strong headwind can slow it down to about 5 mph. It is designed to fly for up to an hour, crash land and break apart upon impact, then quickly be reassembled for another sortie.

E-mail Charlie Coon: cooncc@mail.stripsides.odm



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment lead a detainee into a holding area. The detainee was apprehended during the battalion's operation Tuesday in Buhriz, Iraq.

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Senator knocks delays in reimbursing GIs

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department hasn't developed a plan to reimburse soldiers for equipment they've bought to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan despite requirements in a law passed last year, a senator says.

In a letter sent Wednesday to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., asked for details on the Pentagon's progress setting up the reimbursement program and questioned why it was not in place yet.

"Very simply, this is either negligence on their part, because they were not happy with this when it passed, or it's incompetence," Dodd told The Associated



Dodd

an Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke said Wednesday that Rumsfeld will respond to Dodd's letter after he has reviewed it. She had no comment on the progress of reimbursement regulations. The Defense Department provided no further comment Thursday.

Soldiers serving in Iraq and their families have reported buy-

ing everything from higher-quality protective gear to armor for their Humvees, medical supplies and even global positioning devices.

"There should be no higher priority for our government than ensuring that American troops are well-equipped, particularly those on the front lines of battle in Iraq and Afghanistan," Dodd wrote. "Given their immense sacrifices, as well as the critical contributions of their families and communities, I hereby request that you immediately inform me as to the status of the Department's action to comply with this statutory requirement."

In response to complaints, Congress last year passed Dodd's amendment requiring the Pentagon to reimburse members of the

armed services for the cost of any safety or health equipment that they bought or someone else bought on their behalf.

Under the law, the DOD had until Feb. 25 to develop regulations on the reimbursement, which is limited to \$1,100 per item.

Dodd asked that Rumsfeld provide details on the department's progress. But he also said it was unclear what recourse he has, other than public embarrassment, to force the department to act.

Stars and Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report from Washington.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,512 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,149 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense De-

partment. The figures include four military civilians.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One soldier was killed Wednesday when his patrol was hit by an explosive in Baghdad. The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Andrew L. Bos-

sert, 24, Fountain City, Wis., and Army Pfc. Michael W. Franklin, 22, Coudersport, Pa.; died Monday in Ramadi, Iraq, when a vehicle-borne explosive detonated near them; assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

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Investigator faults troops for detainee abuses

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A top investigator ordered by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to look into abuses at Abu Ghraib and other

military detention facilities laid blame at the feet of individual troops and their commanders, but not top-level officials and policy-makers.

Reporting to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, Vice Adm. Albert Church reported his key finding was that "clearly, there was no policy written or otherwise at any level that directed or condoned torture or abuse."

After more than 800 interviews

and reviews of thousands of pages of documents, Church said that while officials in Washington could learn from "missed opportunities" in providing better guidance to field commanders, no specific blame could be cast.

"Nevertheless," he added, "we did identify problems."

Among his findings:
■ **Leadership breakdown:** Citing a "breakdown of good order and discipline" among some units, Church wrote in the unclassified version of the report's executive summary, "This breakdown implies a failure of unit-level leaders."

■ **Heat of combat:** "The nature of the enemy, and the tactics it has employed in Iraq [and to a lesser extent in Afghanistan] may have played a role in this abuse," wrote Church, explaining that 23 out of 70 documented cases of abuse occurred at the "point of capture" when emotions are running high.

■ **Ignored warning signs:** Write-

ing that he could not provide unclassified details, "there was a failure to react to early warning signs of abuse" by local commanders, Church testified that the Red Cross in particular had repeatedly raised red flags at Abu Ghraib, but that leadership reaction was "not as swift as it could have been."

Church, who until recently was the Navy Inspector General and now heads the Navy staff at the Pentagon, took fire from various corners of the committee, however, for not delving deeper into some areas of concern.

Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, the ranking Democrat on the committee, was quick to take Church to task.

"There has been no assessment of accountability of any senior officials," Levin told Church. "The failure of accountability of senior leaders sends the wrong signal to our troops and the American people. It harms the United States' standing as a nation of laws, and undermines the high standards of our armed forces."

More to face discipline

The fates of several senior officers still hang in the balance as officials start up investigations. While some have been cleared, others are expected to face disciplinary action even as civil lawsuits are being filed. Among those waiting:

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez — Leader of U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq from April 2003 to July 2004. An internal Army investigation and independent panel found Sanchez failed to provide proper oversight at Abu Ghraib and issued confusing policies on interrogations.

Statis: Under investigation. Remains commander of V Corps. Recently named in an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit under charges of war crimes.

Maj. Gen. Walter Wojcikowski — Sanchez's deputy commander in Iraq and, until recently, at V Corps. Responsible for overseeing support to detention facilities as well as direct oversight of the 205th MI Brigade and 800th MP Brigade at Abu Ghraib. Previous investigations determined he failed to provide proper leadership.

Statis: Recently reassigned as special assistant to the commander of Army forces in Europe. Remains under investigation.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski — Commander of 800th Military Po-

lice Brigade. Harshly criticized by investigators for weak and ineffectual leadership that created a climate at Abu Ghraib that led to the abuses. One investigation also accused her of "material misrepresentations" during questioning.

Statis: Suspended from command duties. Recently issued a letter of reprimand by Army Chief of Staff Dick Cheney. Named in ACLU lawsuit.

Col. Thomas Pappas — Commander of 205th Military Intelligence in Iraq. Accused of multiple leadership failures, including improperly authorizing the use of dogs in interrogations.

Statis: Remains commander of 205th MI Brigade, now redeployed home to Germany. Under investigation. Named in ACLU lawsuit.

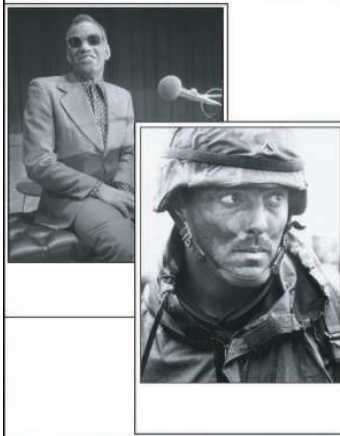
Lt. Col. Stephen L. Jordan — Director of Joint Interrogation Debriefing Center. Accused of multiple leadership failures, including properly training and supervising his troops and for being deceitful during abuse investigations. Failure to obey direct orders to not talk about the cases with others. He conducted an e-mail campaign soliciting support from others involved in the investigation.

Statis: Under investigation.

— Jon Anderson

SEE BLAME ON PAGE 12

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Blast at funeral kills at least 30 in Mosul

BY SINDBAD AHMED

The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a Shiite mosque during a funeral Thursday, killing at least 30 people, an attack that came as Iraq's main Shiite party and a Kurdish bloc said they reached a deal that sets the stage for a new government to be formed.

U.S. troops cordoned off the northeastern Tameem neighborhood near the mosque, a poor area of the city crowded with many homes.

Civilian vehicles helped ambulance crews in ferrying casualties to hospitals.

"As we were inside the mosque, we saw a ball of fire and heard a huge explosion," said Tahir Abdullah Sultan, 45. "After that blood and pieces of flesh were scattered around the place," he added.

Insurgents in the past have targeted Shiite mosques and funerals.

The U.S. military unit that controls the area could not immediately be reached for comment.

Mosul has been a hotbed of insurgent activity and the scene of many bombings, drive-by shootings and assassinations against the country's security services, Iraq's Shiite majority and people thought to be working with U.S.-led forces.

The deal between the clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance and a Kurdish coalition will allow a new government to be named

when the National Assembly opens next week.

It calls for the government to begin discussion on the return of about 100,000 Kurds to the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk and talks about redrawing existing Kurdish regions to include the city in Iraq's new constitution.

It also gives the Kurds just one major Cabinet post — one fewer than they demanded — in return for making one of their leaders,

Jalal Talabani, Iraq's first-ever Kurdish president. One ministry will go to the country's Sunni Arab minority, which largely stayed away from the Jan. 30 elections.

The Kurds agreed to back conservative Islamic Dawa Party leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari for prime minister.

As part of the deal, any land agreement will be incorporated into the country's new constitution,

which must be drafted by mid-August and approved by referendum two months later.

The dealmaking went on as violence continued against Iraq's security forces. In the latest strikes, gunmen killed two district police chiefs and two others Iraqis in attacks in Baghdad on Thursday. Also, an accountant working for a Kurdish television station was killed in northern Iraq.

Assaults in two cars opened

fire on a pickup truck carrying Col. Ahmed Abeis, the head of Salahiyah police in western Baghdad, killing him, his driver and a guard, police Col. Khazim Abbas said.

In an Internet statement, a group claiming to be Al-Qaida in Iraq took responsibility for an attack in the same area on "an intelligence officer who used to investigate the Mujahideen and hurt them." The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

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Blame: Church defends depth of investigation

BLAME, FROM PAGE 11

"The bland label of 'missed opportunities' does not explain the absence of policies," added Levin. "These are failures of command at high level."

Church, who earlier said he was ordered to review the investigations completed so far and fill in the gaps not covered by those reports, responded he was not tasked with delving into the question of leadership accountability.

In a heated exchange with Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, Church defended the Bush administration's decision to withhold Geneva Convention protections from captured Taliban soldiers in Afghanistan.

"You know the North Vietnamese made the same determination about American prisoners," said McCain, who, as a naval aviator spent five years at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" after getting shot down during the Vietnam war.

"It's a good debate," responded Church.

"Well sir, I think it's a little more than a good debate," McCain said. "I am very concerned about what will happen to Americans who are taken prisoner unless we have clear and specific guidelines that we adhere to."

E-mail: Jon Anderson at: jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mil

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Former President Bill Clinton watches his shot at the Medalist Golf Club before a benefit golf tournament for tsunami relief efforts on Wednesday. Clinton's surgery on Thursday went fine, his office said.

Surgery on Clinton deemed 'successful'

BY VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Bill Clinton underwent his second operation in six months on Thursday, a successful surgery to clear up minor complications from his quadruple heart bypass, his office said.

Clinton arrived at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center shortly after 5 a.m. Brian Detson, a hospital spokesman, said at 1:45 p.m. that the former president went out of surgery.

"The surgery was successful," said a statement from Clinton's office. The ex-president was described as "resting comfortably," and an afternoon press conference was planned at the hospital.

Clinton, 58, had fluid and scar tissue removed from his left lung, where it developed after his quadruple heart bypass six months ago. The problems crop up in only a fraction of 1 percent of bypass cases.

The Secret Service, police and hospital security staff conducted a sweep of the walkways and corridors of the hospital pavilion as Clinton was whisked inside through a side entrance.

His wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, was at the hospital with the former president on Thursday morning. Earlier in the week, the New York Democrat said she was "very confident about the outcome" of the procedure.

Across the street from the hospital, good wishes and prayers for Clinton were offered at a restaurant named El Presidente.

"I pray to God that he is well, that he comes out healthy," said manager Wilton Rafael Marté Ferrer, 41, a native of the Dominican Republic. "I say that from my heart because he was a very good president. He helped immigrants get jobs."

Doctors were expected to perform the new procedure sometime in the morning. It is done through a small incision or with a video-assisted thoracoscope inserted between the ribs.

On Wednesday, Clinton was in Florida at a charity golf tournament to benefit tsunami victims. He appeared relaxed, joking about his game and saying he wasn't worried.

"I've had an unusual life. If something happens — if I get struck by lightning on the golf course today — I'd wind up ahead of people who ever lived did," he said.

Jackson arrives late for trial

BY TIM MOLLOY
The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — A pajama-clad Michael Jackson arrived more than an hour late to his child molestation trial Thursday, but the judge who had threatened to arrest him resumed the case without taking any action against the singer in open court.

The singer's young accuser returned to the stand for a second day, saying Jackson gave him wine and called it "Jesus juice."

Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville had issued an arrest warrant when Jackson failed to arrive on time, but told defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. he would hold it for one hour. The judge, obviously angry, also had threatened to revoke his \$3 million bail.

Mesereau, who told the judge Jackson was being treated for a severe back problem, paced outside court and talked on his cell phone until the singer arrived, a

few minutes past the judge's deadline. Jackson walked in gingerly, dressed in a jacket over pajamas and looked distressed.

Attorneys met with the judge in chambers before court resumed and Melville addressed the jurors, telling them not to draw any negative inferences from the developments.

"Mr. Jackson had a medical problem and it was necessary for me to order his appearance," Melville said.

Hospital spokeswoman Janet O'Neill had said Jackson left Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital — which is about 35 miles from the courthouse — shortly after the judge issued his order,

but would not comment on Jackson's condition in court.

Jackson's own spokeswoman, Raymonne K. Bain said outside court that the singer's back "gave out on him" after he woke up and he was rushed to an emergency room around 5:45 a.m. "He knows the seriousness of this. He's not play-acting," Bain said. When Jackson was arraigned in January 2004, the judge admonished him for arriving late and requesting a bathroom break. Last month, during the first week of jury selection, Jackson went to a hospital with flu symptoms, delaying the proceedings for a week and prompting the judge to tell jury prospects that "he really did have the flu." Jackson had been on time or early since then.

Jackson, 46, is accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy, giving him alcohol and conspiring to hold the boy's family captive to get them to rebuy a damaging TV documentary in which Jackson said he allowed children to sleep in his bedroom.



Jackson

H.W. Bush's coat correction

WASHINGTON — Former President George H.W. Bush is confessing after 16 years. The raincoat he had an agent give to a rain-drenched elderly woman in a Warsaw town square belonged to the agent, not the president.

The woman, one of thousands of onlookers, was caught unprepared for the downpour that marked the president's outdoor speech in the capital in 1989. Alongside her, in the front row, stood a U.S. Secret Service agent, with a raincoat, presumably the president's, folded over his arm.

Bush, standing coatless on the platform under a large umbrella, motioned the agent to give the soaked woman the coat, which she happily accepted.

Reminded of the incident Tuesday by a reporter

who was on the trip to Warsaw, Bush smiled and declared, "Yes, but it was the agent's raincoat."

Delta cuts back food, pillows

ATLANTA — Delta Air Lines Inc. is dropping its food-for-sale program, boosting prices on alcoholic beverages and eliminating pillows on many flights as the struggling carrier seeks to improve customer service even as it tries to become more efficient and cut costs.

The nation's third-largest airline announced Wednesday that starting April 3 it will replace its food-for-sale program, which was launched on selected flights in July 2003, with a wider assortment of free snacks in coach class on most domestic and some Latin American and Caribbean flights of more than 90 minutes.

From The Associated Press

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Rather signs off as CBS anchor



CBS/AP

Dan Rather anchors his last "CBS Evening News" broadcast Wednesday from the CBS Broadcast Center in New York. Rather began anchoring on March 9, 1981.

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — To the end of his career as CBS News anchor, Dan Rather stared down his critics.

Rather ended his final broadcast at the "CBS Evening News" on Wednesday with the message he was once ridiculed for offering: "courage."

The 73-year-old Texan has covered a breathtaking array of stories in more than 40 years at CBS, from the Kennedy assassination to the recent tsunami, and was the network's most visible face for the past 24 years. He replaced Walter Cronkite on the evening news on March 9, 1981.

Bob Schieffer is Rather's temporary replacement starting Thursday. CBS expects to name a permanent anchor team to succeed Rather in the coming months.

He was the second of the three men who dominated network news for more than two decades to step down in four months. NBC's Tom Brokaw exited in November, leaving ABC's Peter Jennings remaining at "World News Tonight."

His voice slightly hoarse, Rather was all business for the first 20 minutes of Wednesday's broadcast. He didn't mention the special day, and neither did correspondents John Roberts or Anthony Mason when they threw stories back to him.

Then Rather looked back on what he called the most important story of his career — the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He opened

the news that evening by saying, "You will remember this day as long as you live."

He thanked viewers at the end of Wednesday's newscast, then mentioned Sept. 11 survivors, tsunami survivors, the American military, the oppressed, the sick and fellow journalists in dangerous places.

"And, to each of you," he said, "courage."

He seemed to savor each word of his sign-off. "For the 'CBS Evening News,' Dan Rather reporting. Good night."

For a week in September 1986, Rather ended the news with the word "courage." He gave it up after being mocked for it.

Rather wants most to be remembered as a reporter and, even after 24 years as anchor, never seemed to fully embrace that role. He said he's not retiring, but changing jobs. He will be a reporter for CBS's "60 Minutes" broadcasts.

Both Jennings and Williams paid tribute to Rather at the end of their broadcasts. Williams called him a "very tough competitor" and a friend of nearly 20 years.

On "World News Tonight," Jennings noted the National Guard story and said ABC took no pleasure in the pain it caused its competitor.

"For many of us, being a reporter turned out to be a calling," Jennings said. "It is an identity for Dan. He would be the first to reflect — as all serious reporters do — that this opportunity to work on behalf of the public interest has been a privilege."

"Dan and I are also friends," he said. "It goes without saying that we wish him nothing but the best."

"It goes without saying that we wish him nothing but the best."

Peter Jennings
ABC anchor,
on Dan Rather

Taser used in hospital

ORLANDO, Fla. — A police officer knelt on a drug suspect's chest to restrain him and twice used a Taser stun gun after he refused to provide a urine sample at a hospital, authorities said.

Antonio Wheeler, 18, was arrested Friday on a drug charge and taken to an emergency room after telling officers he had consumed cocaine, police said.

At Florida Hospital, Wheeler refused to provide a urine sample and was handcuffed and secured with leather straps to a bed, where hospital workers tried to catheterize him, a police affidavit said.

Officer Peter Linnenkamp reported he jumped onto the bed with his knees on Wheeler's chest to restrain him. When Wheeler still refused to be catheterized, Linnenkamp said he twice used his Taser, which sends 50,000 volts into a target.

"After the second shock, [Wheeler] stated he would urinate and calmed down enough to be given the portable urinal," Linnenkamp wrote.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating the officer who used the taser, Officer Peter Linnenkamp, has been relieved of duty pending the investigation.

Wheeler faces charges including possession of cocaine with intent to sell, escape and resisting without violence.

From The Associated Press

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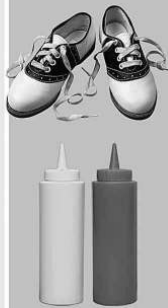
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Lisa Walker, a U.S. Forest Service maintenance worker, uses binoculars Wednesday to view steam as it rises from the crater of Mount St. Helens in Washington State.

Mount St. Helens blast labeled 'small potatoes'

The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS, Wash. — Josh White has rotten timing.

The 31-year-old from Astoria, Ore., missed it when Mount St. Helens reawakened in the fall. On Wednesday, the volcano enthusiastically rushed to the mountain to get a look at the massive plume that stretched seven miles high the night before. It had been replaced by a wispy cloud.

"It's been there in a row now that the mountain has blown before I could get up here," White said, camera in hand. "I do think it goes big, this is going to be it — but what it way to go."

For a few minutes Tuesday, it seemed like that could be the big one. Scientists at the U.S. Geological

Survey's volcano observatory in Vancouver, Wash., were getting ready to head home when the squiggly line on the computer that tracks seismic activity at Mount St. Helens suddenly turned a solid black.

"It just kept on going and going," said research hydrologist Jon Major, describing the seismic line that registered Tuesday's earthquake measuring a magnitude of 2.0.

The mountain, located some 50 miles away, was belching steam and ash, signaling the most powerful blast since Mount St. Helens awoke last fall.

Compared to the eruption that killed 57 people on May 18, 1980, the plume "is really small potatoes," Major said.

IN THE WORLD

Spanish cope with bombing on anniversary

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — One year ago on a Madrid commuter train, 10 backpack bombs allegedly planted by Muslim extremists blew up, killing 191 people and wounding more than 1,500.

On Thursday, Spain's Parliament observed five minutes of silence — broken only by the mournful strains of a cello playing Bach's Sarabande Suite No. 2 — in memory of victims of the bombings as Spain prepared to mark the massacre's first anniversary.

Lawmakers at the Congress of Deputies stood grim-faced by the speaker in a prelude to a series of memorial acts scheduled for Friday.

"That ominous day sowed pain and desolation in the city of Madrid," the legislature said in a statement read out before the tribute. "It was a direct blow at our life in peace and freedom and broke the hearts of all our citizens," the legislature said in a statement.

Friday's main memorial act will also be silent — a short vigil at a park where 192 olive and cypress trees have been planted in honor of the people killed on the train and one special forces officer who died three weeks later while trying to arrest suspects.

A year later, "11-M" has become Spanish shorthand for a national tragedy, much like 9/11 is in the United States.

Fewer than half the injured have come to terms with the tragedy and moved on with their lives, said Marisa Perles, a psychologist who works closely with the victims. The rest just relive their brush with death.

"The first year the pain is extremely intense," Perles said.

Hunger strike at airport

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A spokesman for a group of unarmed Iranian protesters holed up on a Lufthansa jetliner at Brussels airport said Thursday they are on a hunger strike and are prepared to die for their cause to see the overthrow of the Iranian government.

"We won't be moved from here unless we die and they take our bodies from the airplane," said the man who gave his first name, Ira, in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from the plane.

He said the group of protesters numbered 79, including four children and 22 women, and wanted the United States, the European Union and Russia to sign a statement to stop cooperating with the Iranian government.

Police said there were only 59 passengers refusing to leave the plane, out of the total 103 that took the flight from Frankfurt, Germany.

From The Associated Press

Ex-Kosovo PM charged with war crimes

BY ANTHONY DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — A U.N. war crimes indictment unsealed Thursday charged Kosovo's former prime minister with 37 counts of war crimes, accusing him of responsibility for the rape, murder and torture of Serb and Roma civilians by Albanian separatists during the province's 1998-99 war.

In one of the most high-profile cases since the trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Ramush Haradinaj, one of the ethnic Albanian commanders of the Western-backed Kosovo Liberation Army during its fight against Milosevic's Serb troops, was accused of 37 counts of war crimes.

Haradinaj surrendered to the court on Wednesday, a day after resigning as prime minister of Kosovo, a province which is still officially a part of Serbia, although it is run by the United Nations. He is the highest-ranking Kosovo Albanian to go on trial at the 10-year-old tribunal.

The indictment charges Haradinaj with 17 counts of crimes



Kosovo's former prime minister, Ramush Haradinaj, arrives at Pristina's airport Wednesday to fly to The Hague, Netherlands, to face war crimes charges for his alleged part in atrocities during the 1998-99 war between ethnic Albanians and Serb forces.

against humanity for alleged persecution, inhumane acts, unlawful detention, deportation or forcible transfer of civilians. He also faces 20 counts of violations of the laws or customs of war for cruel

treatment, murder and rape.

From April until September 1998, Haradinaj was the KLA's most senior commander in the so-called Dukagjin zone of western Kosovo.



Residents carry coffins of relatives during a mass burial Thursday in San Jose, Philippines. Sobbing parents prepared for a mass burial Thursday of 27 elementary schoolchildren who died after eating a snack of cassava, a root that's poisonous if not prepared correctly.

Filipinos bury 27 children who died after eating improperly cooked food

BY TERESA CERJOJANO
The Associated Press

MABINI, Philippines — Weeping relatives watched as the coffins of some of the 27 schoolchildren who died after eating improperly prepared cassava root were lined up for burial at a Roman Catholic chapel in the central Philippines.

Overcome with grief, Lorenza Asas, mother of 7-year-old Sherwin Asas, stomped her feet on the floor. "I can't accept that my son is dead," she said, as her relatives tried to calm her.

The victims, most ages 7 to 13, bought the deep-fried caramelized cassava from vendors during snack time at the San Jose school in Mabini town on the central Philippine island of Bohol.

Another 103 people were hospitalized with severe stomach pains and diarrhea.

Starchy cassava roots, while rich in protein, minerals and vitamins, are poisonous without proper preparation. The human digestive system can convert part of them into cyanide if they are eaten raw.

At a foothill cemetery, parents, residents and officials watched 12 coffins placed into side-by-side concrete niches. "Maybe everyone here is still in shock," Mayor Stephan Rances said with tears in his eyes as workers nailed the coffins shut before sealing the niches with cement. Relatives wept nearby.

Anicita Luyong, 33, grieved over the coffin of her 7-year-old son, Wilfredo Luyong Jr., in her house near the school.

She said the boy, who had wanted to be a soldier, came home crying with severe abdominal pain.

He was taken to a hospital but did not survive.

One of the two vendors was also ill and still hospitalized Thursday, while the other was in police custody to protect her from outraged parents, said the town mayor's aide, Philip Fuleran.

Authorities have not ruled out criminal charges against the vendors. Investigators were checking whether the vendors failed to properly cook the cassava, and studying unconfirmed reports that tainted cooking oil was used, said Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

Officials of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Health Department were collecting cassava samples at the site and drawing patients' blood for analysis, said provincial health officer Reyes-moses Cabagnot.

U.N. prosecutors accuse him of responsibility for crimes committed by subordinates and personal involvement in beatings as part of a wider "joint criminal enterprise" aimed at forcing the Serbian and Roma populations out of Kosovo.

The 25-page indictment lists horrific acts of racism and allegedly carried out by Haradinaj and his three brothers against their village neighbors.

"KLA forces under his control operated in a structured and disciplined manner, provided overall control of planning and organization of operations, and established a system whereby individuals were targeted for abduction, mistreatment and murder, and whereby a systematic attack on vulnerable sections of the civilian population was carried out," the indictment said.

Haradinaj also faces murder charges.

Haradinaj, 36, could face life imprisonment if convicted of any of the charges. He is expected to appear in court in coming days, when he will be asked to enter a plea.

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Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows. Pressure systems and fronts are for noon today.

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22



Non Open

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers.
Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s.

France: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated morning rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with isolated rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lower 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain and snow-showers. Highs in the mid to upper 20s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower to mid 50s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Saturday lows in the upper teens to mid 20s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow-showers. Highs in the mid 30s.
Saturday: Low in the upper single

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy to

cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 50s to upper 60s. In the north, Saturday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s. In the south, Saturday lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

European forecast for 11 March 2005

KEY: Sunny Pt. Cl'dy. Mostly cl'dy. Cloudy Showers Tstorms. Rain Rain/snow Snow

Cold frnt. Warm frnt. TROUGH Occluded fr. Steady front L H Low High

AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	77	62	Mogadishu	88	76
Dakar	77	65	Nairobi	82	60
Freetown	90	76	Rabat	68	47
Harare	90	74	Tripoli	66	46

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	41	33	Manila	93	73
Bahrain	84	64	Mexico City	72	49
Beijing	38	22	Montreal	19	20
Beirut	62	50	Riyadh	92	62
Bermuda	62	61	Rio de Jan	88	76
Caracas	87	75	Seoul	39	20
Helsinki	11	04	Sofia	26	19
Hong Kong	70	51	Sydney	77	65
Lisbon	64	48	Tokyo	63	37

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

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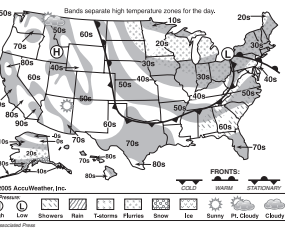
MIDEAST

SUN & MOON

	today	tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:19AM	6:17AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	6:48AM	6:46AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:08PM	6:08PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:24PM	6:26PM

			
First qtr.	Full moon	Last qtr.	New moon

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



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Sin tax proposed

MO JEFFERSON CITY — In the eyes of one Missouri legislator, the Show-Me State needs to tone down its image — as far as the adult entertainment industry is concerned.

"Travelers in our state are being sent a signal that Missouri is a porn-friendly state," said State Sen. Matt Bartle. To combat that, Bartle has sponsored a measure for a sin tax.

The proposal cleared the state Senate with little debate. The legislation needs another vote to move to the House.

Under the bill, tipping strippers would be illegal, as would any physical contact between exotic dancers and their customers. Total nudity would be banned, and no one under 21 could work in such businesses.

The legislation also would impose a \$5 per customer charge for sexually oriented businesses, from strip clubs to adult bookstores, and a 20 percent tax on revenues. The provisions are similar to what casinos in the state already must pay.

Bartle, a Republican, said the restrictions and taxes are necessary to combat problems such as prostitution, juvenile delinquency and declining property values.

High school to be closed

DC WASHINGTON — Cardozo High School will be closed again because of the third mercury spill since Feb. 23. Cardozo students will be bused to the University of the District of Columbia to attend classes. The most recent mercury spill turned up last weekend. Officials said cleaning up the latest spill will take between three and five days.

Employees to get bonuses

ME FREEPORT — About 4,700 L.L. Bean employees will receive bonuses totaling 12.5 percent of their annual base salaries after the company announced record sales of \$1.4 billion for fiscal 2004. An additional 5,600 seasonal workers will get \$150 bonuses.

The privately held Bean said sales increased 9 percent from 2003.

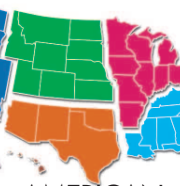
Shark kills tank mate

CA MONTEREY — The Monterey Aquarium's popular great white shark is now a killer, having taken down one of its Outer Bay tank-mates two weeks ago and inflicting a 5-inch gash in the tail of another soupfin shark this week.

But aquarium officials believe the 88-pound, well-fed white shark wasn't hunting its neighbors — only reflexively clomping when it was startled by an accidental collision with the slower-swimming sharks.

There are no plans to move the female great white, although officials may relocate two remaining soupfin sharks to avoid potential clashes in the million-gallon tank. "The white shark and the soupfins are tending to sort of run into one another," said Randy Kochevar, science communication manager for the aquarium. "You have two animals trying to occupy the same space with some unfortunate consequences."

The newest attack and the death



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

of a similar shark Feb. 23 — which was found with a two-foot chunk of its tail missing — occurred before the aquarium opened for visitors, whose numbers have jumped 30 percent since the great white shark arrived in September after it was accidentally netted by fishermen in Southern California.

Toddler survives alone

TX HOUSTON — A 2-year-old boy survived for up to two days on pancake syrup and onions after his caretaker died in their home, police said.

The boy was found after a relative of Gladie Mae Johnson, 64, became concerned because she hadn't heard from her.

When the relative knocked on the door of Johnson's home, she heard knocking back from inside. She entered through an unlocked back door and found the boy and Johnson's body.

Johnson was last seen alive on Friday, Houston Police Department Sgt. Paul Motard said. She apparently died of natural causes.

Investigators found an open and nearly empty container of pancake syrup on the floor. Some onions also were found lying near Johnson's body.

Johnson was a friend of the boy's family and had been caring for him since last year, when his mother went to prison. Child Protective Services spokeswoman Estella Olguin said.

Manatees found dead

FL NAPLES — At least 16 West Indian manatees have died in southwest Florida, apparently from a red tide outbreak that's

drifted offshore for several weeks.

So far, this episode hasn't escalated to the level of major red tide mortality events in recent years. During a particularly bad outbreak in 1996, more than 150 manatees died from the toxic bloom.

The year 2003 saw nearly 100 mortalities that were blamed on red tide. State biologist Andy Garrett, however, said this latest event looks familiar.

"The pace we're on right now would be on pace with some of the bigger events," Garrett said. "Having several animals picked up over the course of a few days is similar to the bigger events."

Red tide is a naturally occurring toxin that's fed by nutrients.

Large blooms occur regularly off the southwest Florida coast and can cause widespread deaths of marine creatures and respiratory problems in humans.

Garrett said the number of calls from boaters reporting dead manatees has ebbed since the weekend. Rainy and chilly weather probably kept many boaters off the water lately, Garrett said.

Red tide typically forms offshore and gets tossed around the Gulf of Mexico by currents and steering winds. Winter winds typically prevail from the east. Onshore breezes and winter fronts, however, can send the toxic outbreaks inshore.

Gorilla dies at Erie

PA ERIE — A gorilla believed to be the longest living of its kind in captivity has died of old age. He was 49.

Rudy died in his sleep at the Erie Zoo, said zoo spokesman Scott Mitchell.

Captive gorillas can begin to have health problems in their late 20s to early 30s, Mitchell said. Rudy's appetite had been declining recently, he said.

Rudy was captured in Africa as a baby. He arrived at the Erie Zoo in 1987 after living at zoos in St. Louis, Los Angeles and Cleveland.

Rudy was believed by the International Species Information System, which keeps records on captive animals, to be the oldest captive lowland gorilla in the world.

Deputy suspended

MN BEMIDJI — An off-duty sheriff's deputy who used a cell phone to make audiovisual recordings of three men having sex with an 18-year-old woman at a party will be suspended for two weeks without pay and reassigned, an official said.

An investigation of the Sept. 19 incident found that Beltrami County deputy Jeffrey Andersen engaged in "conduct unbecoming an officer," Sheriff Keith Winger said.

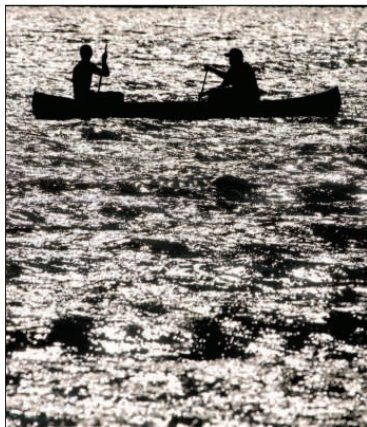
Three men were charged with felony criminal sexual conduct after the woman told police that they gang-raped her. She said one of them gave her a drink that rendered her semiconscious.

Andersen, 25, was suspended with pay after he admitted using a cell phone to record the incident.

A special prosecutor dismissed the rape charges in December, saying that there wasn't evidence of a date-rape drug. The same prosecutor declined to bring charges against Andersen, saying his conduct couldn't be proven criminal.



White-out results in pileup A white-out created by lake-effect snow bands caused a multi-vehicle pileup on U.S. 131 near Grand Rapids, Mich. A sudden snow squall caused a series of chain-reaction accidents involving 85 to 90 vehicles on a western Michigan highway that killed one motorist and injured at least 34 others, police said.



Taking a break Patrick Allred, left, and Jim Bell paddle their canoe across Kirby Lake in Abilene, Texas. The two high school juniors were enjoying the sunshine during their spring break.

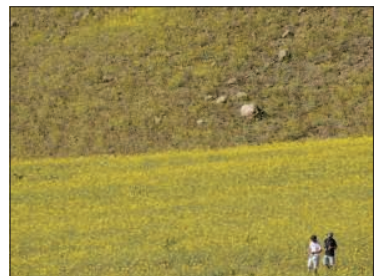


Disappearing act Vehicles cross the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco in fog.



All the world's a snowflake

Mike Whitney, 19, of Auburn, Maine, walks past a snowflake design on the front of a downtown business in Lewiston, Maine.



A blanket of gold

Sightseers walk through a field of wildflowers in Death Valley National Park in Death Valley, Calif. Heavy winter rains have led to an explosion of wildflowers throughout the usually barren landscape.



Willing to work

Jim White, left, and Andrew Boney carry snow shovels while walking along Route 229 in Bristol, Conn. They were looking for a way to make a few bucks off the snow.



What a mess!

Workers look over the scene of a derailment in Industry, Calif. The freight train derailed spilling a combustible liquid and prompting the evacuation of 11 businesses from a nearby strip mall, authorities said. No injuries were reported.

Tread gives up crooks

AR FORT SMITH — Police in Fort Smith got to the bottom of a burglary at city offices by peering into the criminal sole.

Apparently, footprints left by the burglars came from shoes popular with skateboarders. Officers discovered that only one store in Fort Smith sold the shoes, and the shoe with the unique tread was sold to only a handful of customers.

That led police to Christopher Calvin and Eric Skelton, both 23.

The men were arrested last week on suspicion of commercial burglary and theft of property. The duo worked together at a mall restaurant near the store that sold the shoes.

City officials said about \$3,000 worth of computers and other equipment was taken.

According to authorities, the burglars apparently climbed atop a vacant building, worked their way to the ledge along the third floor of another building that housed city offices and entered through an unlocked window.

First female president

LA NEW ORLEANS — Marvalene Hughes has been chosen as Dillard University's first woman president. She will officially begin July 1 as the ninth president of Dillard, a private, predominantly black school associated with the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Hughes has been president at California State University Stanislaus campus since 1994.

License-revoking review

MN ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Supreme Court is considering the constitutionality of a law allowing authorities to revoke the driver's license of people suspected of driving drunk.

The implied consent law allows license revocation before a judge hears the case. More than 30,000 people a year lose their licenses in Minnesota because of suspected drunk driving.

Boater rescued safely

TX AUSTIN — A boater got the ride of his life when he fell overboard and was swept through a floodgate of a dam.

Authorities said the man and a female companion were boating on Lake Austin when the boat's motor quit and the current carried the boat up against the Tom Miller Dam.

A security guard atop the dam threw a rope to the woman and guided her to a rescue boat, but Dirk Hoekstra fell into the water.

"A second later is when my feet got sucked in by the water gate and that's when I went through," Hoekstra told CNN.

He said he managed to take a good breath before he went under. "It was twisting me around like a rag doll and threw my arms all over the place and it just keeps flipping me from whirlpool to whirlpool," Hoekstra said.

He said he surfaced a quarter- to a half-mile downstream from the dam, made his way to a house on shore and called 911.

Father shoots daughter

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — A father was charged with acci-

dently shooting his 2-year-old daughter while playing with a gun, police said.

Jered Dean Grisham, 23, was arrested and charged with felony child endangerment and reckless handling of a firearm, said Rene Ball, a police spokeswoman.

Police believe Grisham was spinning the gun on his finger when it went off, grazing his daughter's legs. She was treated at a hospital and released.

Grisham is being held in jail without bond.

School looks into speech

CO PUEBLO — Officials at Colorado State University-Pueblo are investigating a student's complaint that a professor called Mexicans "lazy and bitter" during a classroom tirade against illegal immigrants.

Two students claimed tenured anthropology professor Dan Forsyth made the comment in a speech March 3, The Pueblo Chieftain reported.

According to the students, Forsyth allegedly said illegal immigrants and Mexicans have filled up U.S. prisons and "raped the system," the paper reported.

Forsyth denied the allegations, saying he only reminded students after class about a campus appearance by Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., an outspoken advocate for tighter immigration controls.

City eyes cable car fares

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A ride on a historic cable car is considered a must-do for tourists visiting the City by the Bay, like a tour of Alcatraz prison or a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge.

But the ride could soon cost them a couple extra bucks.

The board that oversees city transportation voted last week to raise the price of a cable car ride from \$3 to \$5, reasoning that tourists use cable cars far more than residents. The fare for buses, which many residents ride, would go up only a quarter.

The proposal must still be approved by Mayor Gavin Newsom, who wants to find another way to raise funds, and the Board of Supervisors.

The cable cars "shouldn't be a way for us to make money, but part of the allure and charm of the city," Newsom said.

No Sunday car sales

ME AUGUSTA — A bill that would allow Maine car dealers to sell vehicles on Sundays is dead for this session.

The Legislature's Business, Research and Economic Development Committee sent word to the House that it voted unanimously to kill the bill.

Rep. Nancy Smith, D-Monmouth, a committee co-chair, said dealers didn't support the idea and consumers expressed a desire to have one day a week to car shop without having salesmen around.

It is now illegal for dealers to sell cars, trucks or motorcycles on Sunday.

The only person to testify in favor of the bill was its sponsor, Rep. Kenneth Lindell, R-Frankfort, who said he wanted to reduce state regulation over business and give families an option to car shop on Sunday.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

Friday, March 11, 2005

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley	Movie *** "Hiving Out" (1999) Tom Savery, Nigel Kneale. Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years (1999) Drama (D) war in Cambodia, Ruby Dee.	Dr. Phil	Jacquelyn	Headline News	Handball With Chris Matthews	30 Minute Movies	Jacquelyn
9:30	Savage-Siamen Cat	Movie *** "The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years" (1999) Drama (D) war in Cambodia, Ruby Dee.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	The O'Reilly Factor	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Easy Entertaining-Charlote	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(9:46) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Decorating Cents	ESPIWeek
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)		(9:46) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	The Look for Less	Pacific Report
11:00	Savage-Siamen Cat	(10:46) Movie *** "Alien" (1979) Tom Savery, Nigel Kneale. Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years (1999) Drama (D) war in Cambodia, Ruby Dee.	(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	El News Live	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't
11:30	Stanley		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	The King of Queens	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't
12:00	Dora the Explorer		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	That '70s Show	Survivor: Palau
12:30	The Wiggles' Foodman		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Girlfriends	The Apprentice
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Pretty Woman" (1990) Tom Savery, Nigel Kneale. Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years (1999) Drama (D) war in Cambodia, Ruby Dee.	(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Charmed 'Hell Hath No Fury'	The Apprentice
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Strong Medicine	Pacific Report
14:00	Winx Club "Secret Guardian"		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Any Day Now "The Dust of Life"	The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
14:30	Barnes & Friends (E)		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Third Watch "Adam 5-5"	Let's Show David Letterman
15:00	Funnies Home Videos	(13:16) Movie *** "The Breakfast Club" (1985) Comedy (D) Anthony Michael Hall, Kelly LeBrock, Michael S. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Mary Steinberg.	(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Law & Order "School Days"	Dennis Miller
15:30	Growing Pains		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	The Simpsons	Countdown with Keith Olbermann
16:00	Rekenen "Shall Shock"		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Everybody Loves Raymond	JAG "The One That Got Away"
16:30	My-Girl		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 1 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
17:00	Doug "Doug's New School"		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 2 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 3 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
18:00	The Fairly OddParents		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 4 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
18:30	Rugrats "Wishing Tonight"		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 5 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
19:00	The Fairly OddParents		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 6 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
19:30	Dave the Barbarian		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 7 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
20:00	Danny Phantom		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 8 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
20:30	Drake & Josh		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 9 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
21:00	Strategic "Keep-Big-Hole-Hole"		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 10 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
21:30	Phil of the Future		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 11 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
22:00	Switched!		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 12 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 13 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
23:00	The Cosby Show		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 14 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"
23:30	Home Improvement		(10:46) General Hospital	The O.C. The Chumuckah That Almost Wasn't	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Quarterfinal - Teams TBA. From the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Taped)	Friends (Part 15 of 2)	Unfabulous "The Party"

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005

00:00	Doug "Doug Gets His Wish"	(11:00) Movie *** "L.A. Confidential" (1997) East Mountain	Late Show-Letterman	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
00:30	Rocky Power (Part 2 of 3)		Access Hollywood	Powerpuff Girls	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(12:50) Movie *** "The Hot Chick" (2002) Comedy (D) Raven-Symoné, Michael S. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Mary Steinberg.	The Hot Chick	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
1:30	Rugrats		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
2:00	The Fairly OddParents		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
2:30	Dave the Barbarian		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
3:00	Danny Phantom		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
3:30	Drake & Josh		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
4:00	Strategic "Keep-Big-Hole-Hole"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
4:30	Phil of the Future		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
5:30	Barnes & Friends (E)		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
6:00	Strategic "Keep-Big-Hole-Hole"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
6:30	Planet's Funnies Animals		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
7:00	Amazing Animal Videos		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
7:30	Lilo & Stitch "Houdini"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
8:00	Team Spectrum (E)		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
9:00	Static Shock		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
9:30	Winx Club "Secret Guardian"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
10:00	Ten Titans "Sisters"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
10:30	Power Rangers DinoThunder		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
11:00	Dragonball GT		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
11:30	Justice League		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
12:00	Teen Kids News (E)		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
12:30	Cyberchase (E)		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
13:00	Trading Space "Big-Ed"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
13:30	Strategic "Keep-Big-Hole-Hole"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
14:00	Planet's Funnies Animals		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
14:30	Wild America		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
15:00	Discovery Kids Ultimate Guide to the Awesome		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
15:30	Heracles: The Legendary Journeys "Headless Horseman"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
16:00	Doug "Doug Grows Up" (E)		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
16:30	The Wild Thornberrys		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
17:00	The Fairly OddParents		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
18:00	Rugrats		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
19:00	Movie "Stick in the Suburbs"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
19:30	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
20:00	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
20:30	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
21:00	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
21:30	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
22:00	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
22:30	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
23:00	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
23:30	Movie "The Luck of the Irish"		College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Headline News	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball

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FACES

Fleming, pop worth leaving behind

After failed crossover venture, C&W traditionalist happily returns to roots

BY MARIO TARRADELL

The Dallas Morning News

A few years ago, country traditionalist Lee Ann Womack dolled up and struck a come-hither pose for Matthew Rolston, a fashion photographer known for his shots of stars such as Cyndi Lauper and Jennifer Lopez. The glamorous picture became the cover of Womack's 2002 album, "Something Worth Leaving Behind." That cover telegraphed a clear change: Lee Ann Womack was going pop.

It didn't go well. Womack's next big photo session produced a CD cover that could pass for one of Tammy Wynette's early '70s album jackets. A sheer veil covers her soft blond locks, sweet smile and summery halter-top, lending a golden hue. And again, the message couldn't be more plain: 2005's "There's More Where That Came From" would be a traditional country album — twin fiddles, moaning pedal steel guitars and mandolins, stories of cheating, hard lessons and heartbreak.

"When I started making this record, I said I'm gonna have fun, and that's it. I'm not going to worry about does this sound right coming from a woman, or is this too country, or is this into too long?" says Womack. She's nursing a bowl of oatmeal with butter and brown sugar during a break from the release of "There's More Where That Came From."

"I wanted this record to sound like where I came from."

Womack is the genre's latest artist to start out traditional, flirt with pop, then highlight it back to country. Her brief detour puts her in good company with icons such as Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn as well as big-selling stars Garth Brooks and LeAnn Rimes.

There's nothing wrong with a little experimentation, of course, as long as you don't lose your artistic identity. Nelson pulled it off with 1982's "Always On My



Lee Ann Womack, who made a name for herself in the country world with her hit "I Hope You Dance," says she "didn't have much fun" during her foray into pop music.

Mind" and especially 1978's collection of pop standards, "Star dust." But Parton had trouble staying focused.

While her 1977 pop foray, "Here You Come Again," succeeded by mixing plenty of Dolly's personality with mainstream hooks and melodies, 1988's "Rainbow" bombed because it glossed over her distinctive style.

Sometimes confusing the die-hard fans leads to sure failure. Brooks became another character, Chris Gaines, for his doomed pop effort, 1999's "In the Life of Chris Gaines." He left millions of admirers scratching their heads, wondering what was going on. For Rimes, 2002's "Twisted Angel" seemed more a product of her teenage rebellion than

a legitimate change of musical pace.

Womack's excursion into pop was sparked by the mammoth success of 2000's "I Hope You Dance," a 3-million-selling CD that produced the smash title cut, a hit on the country, pop and adult contemporary charts. The album was a thoughtfully conceived blend of her traditional country base and smoother pop elements.

She felt the stifling pressure of following up such a huge record, so she made herself miserable in the studio while recording "Something Worth Leaving Behind." She had pop producer Matt Serletic (Matchbox Twenty) soup up an alternate version of "Something Worth Leaving Behind," hoping it would ensure the same mass-appeal of "I Hope You Dance."

The whole endeavor sank. "Something Worth Leaving Behind" peaked at No. 20 on Billboard's country singles chart and never crossed over to pop or adult contemporary. The album didn't fare much better; it sold barely 300,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

"I didn't have that much fun making 'Something Worth Leaving Behind,'" she says before taking a sip of coffee. Womack, dressed in blue jeans and a flowery halter-top with a beige shawl, is refreshingly honest.

"Now that I look back on it, because of the success that I had prior, I was so worried that I was gonna not measure up to that, that I over-thought everything on

that record. I tried ... to please everybody with that record ... myself, radio, the listeners, everybody who loved 'Never Again, Again' and everybody who loved 'I Hope You Dance.' And it just didn't work. I had it all wrong."

For a while, she wasn't sure she wanted to make another album. It was her label, MCA Nashville, that coaxed her back into the studio.

This time, she was determined to please only one person — herself. And the return to country worked —

"There's More Where That Came From" sold a healthy 83,000 copies its first week in stores. The disc's first single, a classic cheating ballad titled "I May Hate Myself in the Morning," sits in the Top 15.

Traditional country music in its purest form is a rarity these days, song characterized by organic musicianship heavy on fiddles and steel guitars, emotional songs painting everyday subjects as universal truths.

"That's my favorite kind," says Womack. "I mean, it fires me up. Traditional country is the most beautiful thing in the world. And you know I don't sing country music because I'm not capable of singing other kinds of music. I sing it because I just love it."

People ask her why she likes "sad stuff" so much, she says.

"I have no explanation for why I can put on 'A Good Year for the Roses,' crank it up and just ... it does something to me. It makes me happy. I don't understand what's going on there, but it does."



"When I started making this record, I said I'm gonna have fun, and that's it. ... I wanted this record to sound like where I came from."

Lee Ann Womack

Describing her new CD, "There's More Where That Came From"

An interstellar success

Career-achievement prizes? Maybe for your ordinary, down-to-earth directors, not your interstellar filmmaking overlords.

"Star Wars" creator George Lucas is receiving a "galactic-achievement award" next week at ShoWest, an annual convention of the theater owners in Las Vegas.

The honor being presented March 17 comes two months after the debut of the final installment in Lucas' sci-fi saga, "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," chronicling the transformation of young hero Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) into the

dark lord Darth Vader.

"This unique award celebrates the enduring popularity of the 'Star Wars' movies and the enormous impact and influence they have had on audiences and popular culture," Mitch Neuhouser, co-manager of ShoWest, said Tuesday.

"Revenge of the Sith" opens in U.S. theaters on May 19.

Actress disputes RNC charges

Actress Rosario Dawson says she will fight disorderly conduct and obstruction charges stemming from her arrest during the Republican National Convention last year.

Dawson, 25, was arrested filming the movie "This Revolution," along with director Stephen Marshall. Authorities said she was wearing two handkerchiefs on her face with only her eyes showing.

A criminal complaint says she refused when ordered by police to move from the 35th Street and Eighth Avenue location, near the site of the GOP convention.

When Marshall tried to show the city film permit to police, he and Dawson were arrested. Dawson refutes the police department's claim that she refused to move.

A Manhattan criminal court judge Tuesday denied Dawson's request to dismiss the charges and said her trial would begin next week, The New York Post reported.

Wonder to star at Tiger Jam

Stevie Wonder will have Sin City "Dancing to the Rhythm" when the Grammy winner headlines the upcoming Tiger Jam VIII.

The annual benefit concert sponsored by Tiger Woods is scheduled for May 21 at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

"Stevie Wonder is a music legend, and I'm thrilled he's headlining Tiger Jam VIII," Woods said in a statement Tuesday.

"He's very committed to social causes, which makes him the perfect fit to help raise awareness for the Tiger Woods Learning Center."

Catting Crows also will perform at the concert, which raises more than \$1 million annually for the Tiger Woods Foundation. SBC Communications also is a sponsor.

Proceeds from previous concerts have supported a variety of organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas and the VHI Save the Music Foundation.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Lucas



Wonder

OPINION

Merger mania: Size is the law of the jungle

BY ROSABETH MOSS KANTER

“When elephants dance, the grass gets trampled.”

That African proverb could be an American business saying. As Corporate giants are prowling around, hungry for acquisitions. Will they trample the folks at the grass roots? The biggest retailers are getting bigger. Federated (owner of iconic Macy's) is buying May Department Stores (Lord & Taylor, Filene's and others). CVS expanded its already-large chain by buying Eckerd.

“As retailers swallow, manufacturers follow” — to coin a new business proverb. Giant distributors provide suppliers to merge.

Gillette executives cite the need for clout with gargantuan Wal-Mart as the reason for selling Gillette to Procter & Gamble.

Size is the law of the jungle. Banks continue to consolidate. Citizens Bank CEO Larry Fish predicts that six big banks will soon dominate the U.S. market. Media conglomerates on local broadcast and newspapers. Telecomunications is shaking down at just a few giants, as SBC acquires AT&T, Verizon and Qwest vice to buy MCI.

The merger surge derives from more than a herd mentality or ambition to be king of the jungle. It reflects a long-term economic power

shift from production to distribution. Companies with large distribution networks dictate terms to their suppliers and control the flow of goods and services to consumers.

Long-term economic logic might favor this process, but in the short term, much grass gets crushed.

Let's start with consumers, whose purchases fill company coffers.

Consumers have mergers. Business Week asserted in December. That's not surprising. In service industries, a change in company ownership potentially inconveniences each individual user of a bank account, e-mail domain, cell phone line, long-distance plan or discount card — not to mention losing neighborhood facilities. While waiting for services to improve, consumers bear the costs of confusion — and upgrades they might not want.

Another grass-roots worry is rising prices of competition decimators. At a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing last week, U.S. Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., asked six telecom CEOs involved in three potential mega-mergers to guarantee not to raise post-acquisition prices. No promises.

The work force isn't happy either. A Conference Board report on failing U.S. job satisfaction finds widespread discontent across ages and incomes. Half of all Americans surveyed say

they're satisfied with their jobs, down from nearly 60 percent in 1995; only 14 percent feel very satisfied. In a related study, 40 percent feel disconnected from their employers, 25 percent are just “showing up to collect a paycheck.” Mergers add uncertainty and anxiety that depress satisfaction.

Some laid-off employees pray for work, others decide to worship something bigger than business. After merger-related layoffs in a suburban high-tech corridor, church attendance increased.

Community leaders deplore acquisitions that remove a local headquarters. My research shows that companies contribute more money and leadership in their home office city. A division owned by a giant elsewhere doesn't have the same check-writing ability. Local nonprofits find corporate support shrinking — unless they, too, expand their networks across cities to match giants' national reach.

Personally, I don't hate all mergers. I just hate the way most are managed. Attention focuses on making the deal, not on what happens afterward.

Some mergers do bring instant improvements. CVS enhanced pharmacies at former Eckerd stores. Shinhan Financial Group in South Korea raised wages for workers in an acquired bank. Others create funds to maintain local community support for several years. This shows what's possible.



Opposition to mergers by local politicians is often misguided and futile. But if concerned citizens can't trip the elephant, they don't have to let grass grow under their feet either.

Consumers can make noise at the first announcements and vote with their wallets. Workers can keep skills fresh and an eye on starting their own business. Voters can insist on better programs to help with transitions and attract new jobs. Local nonprofits can de-

velop innovations valuable outside their community. Communities can encourage leadership from those more deeply planted than big companies: entrepreneurs (including women) and professional sectors such as education and health.

We know what kinds of beasts the elephants are. That makes it even more important to cultivate trample-proof grass.

Rosabeth Moss Kanter is a Harvard Business School professor and author of *Commitment*. She wrote this for the Miami Herald.

Brusque Bolton now will set tone for U.S. at U.N.

BY SUSAN E. RICE

President Bush has shocked even his most cynical critics by nominating the combative neoconservative John Bolton to one of our most complex and sensitive diplomatic posts: U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Bolton served the past four years as undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, though then-Secretary of State Colin Powell initially resisted his appointment.

Condoleezza Rice, who passed over Bolton for deputy secretary despite strong support for him from President Dick Cheney, put on a brave face Monday in announcing his appointment. She stressed the administration's commitment to U.N. reform and praised Bolton as a friend of the United Nations who helped reject the noxious General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. But as Rice must know, keeping Bolton off her team at State may prove a Pyrrhic victory, if he takes his notoriously abrasive style to New York.

The job of U.N. ambassador is always important and delicate, but arguably never more so than now. The United Nations is facing unprecedented, justified criticism for its role in the oil-for-food scandal and its failure to prevent peacekeepers from sexually exploiting civilians in Congo. Several Republican members of Congress are gunning for Secretary-General Kofi Annan's head. In response, Annan is shaking up his management team and reminding the United States how badly it needs the United Nations.

Indeed, the United States is relying on the United Nations to carry out a massive tsunami-recovery effort and 17 peacekeeping missions, to support the democratization processes in Afghanistan and Iraq, and to pressure Iran to halt its nuclear program. At the

60th anniversary of its founding, the United Nations has rarely been more relevant or in greater need of reform.

Is John Bolton the right man? Having served as assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs from 1989 to 1993, Bolton may be deemed qualified, but his record on multilateral issues is alarming. He told *The Wall Street Journal* that “the happiest moment of his government service” was when the Bush administration renounced the treaty on the International Criminal Court. Bolton led the administration's withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, scuttled an important biological weapons protocol and weakened an international agreement to limit small-arms trafficking. On these issues, Bolton's positions at least reflected administration policy.

But Bolton holds many strong views that

diverge sharply from current U.S. policy. He described the United Nations as “a great, rusting bulk of a bureaucratic superstructure ... dealing with issues from the ridiculous to the sublime.” More important, he maintains that the United States has no legal obligation to pay its U.N. dues.

Once a paid consultant to the Taiwanese government, Bolton favors Taiwan's independence and its full U.N. membership — a dangerous position in light of cross-strait tensions and our efforts to obtain Chinese president Hu Jintao's support. Will Bolton set aside his support for a Taiwanese U.N. seat while manning the U.S. seat on the Security Council?

Bolton has testified against U.N. involvement in Congo, an interstate conflict that has cost 3 million lives. He blasted the United Nations' concept of operations for its Ethio-

pia-Eritrea effort and rejected U.N. civil administration missions in Kosovo and East Timor. Will Bolton undergo such an intervention on the road to First Avenue that he can effectively support U.N. peace operations?

Finally, Bolton criticized any “right of humanitarian intervention” to justify military operations to prevent ethnic cleansing or potential genocide. “One must wonder how forcefully he will work to halt what the administration deems genocide in Darfur.”

Rice asserts that Bolton will be an outspoken, effective U.N. ambassador in the vein of Jeane Kirkpatrick and Daniel Patrick Moynihan. ... Those of us who believe the United States need an effective, reformed United Nations can only hope he succeeds.

Susan E. Rice is a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution. She was assistant secretary of state from 1997 to 2001. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

The headstrong Aries lunar energy causes some to be overly aggressive, thinking that the louder they talk or the more they repeat their demands, the better their chances of being heard. The opposite is true. With so much Pisces energy in the heavens, subtlety communicates much more clearly. Dare to be soft, humble and even coy.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 11). You're on a mission — nearly obsessed, really! This intense degree of focus is what it takes for mastery and attainment of something that goes to the elite few! In May, circulate, and make valuable contacts. Finances improve, and because of this, you're able to fund life-improving summer projects. Love is an adventure with Leo and Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). That unpleasant person or awkward issue must now be dealt with directly. Avoidance is pointless. Like a bad French movie, your life will keep intersecting with the thing until you a madcap culmination is reached.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When communication is missed and events don't unfold clearly, extend the benefits of the doubt. You're so on the go that even people who should know how to find you have a hard time tracking you down.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The saying goes that "rejection is God's protection." In spite of recent reversals, the demand for what only you can deliver has not slackened in the slightest. You're still charismatic, and tonight's events prove it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're a giving soul. But the neediness in the world is just too strong a current and succumbing to it will drag you in over your head. Though you won't be able to give people all they want from you, give what you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your inventiveness, intuition and ingenuity sparkle up everything you touch. You've got answers that even the

powers of Google couldn't deliver! Too bad friends don't follow your advice, but hey, at least you follow your own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sentimentality dictates some of your activities. It's not like you, and maybe that's the appeal. You feel soft and pliable. It's time to admit it: Your passing fancy is growing into an abiding attachment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll witness the domino effect. Perhaps the snarled-up plans of a day would discourage a less creative soul, but you'll make something magical out of the whole mess. You're nothing if not resilient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your psychic antennae are activated. Someone is either talking about what you can do for him or her or fantasizing about same. What a coincidence — you were just thinking about what that person might do for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What's life without glamour, art and adventure? Unless you do some research or make some plans for the weekend, you're about to find out! Get on that! A Gemini can contribute.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even if you're destined for a life of labor, find ways to cut loose and have a little fun. Your association with a Leo or Aquarius helps. Playful electricity is in the air. Join the merry-go-round of people out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What would happen if you just let go of plugging commitment issues? Maybe you're just time with the level of commitment you have! Love is more fun if you play it by ear now anyway.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Abandon antiquated ideas and outdated methods for the modern, streamlined and efficient. The more you automate your life, the more time you have to be useful and spontaneous. Reinroduce yourself to the concept of fun.

Creators Syndicate

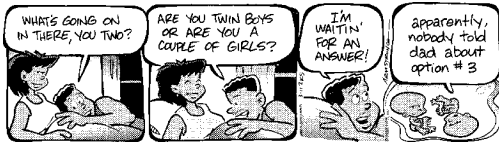
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Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



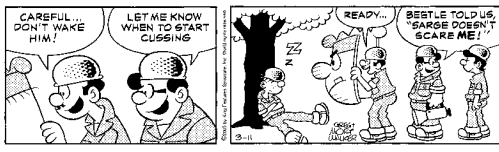
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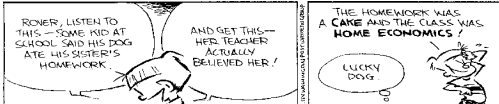
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Forkrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



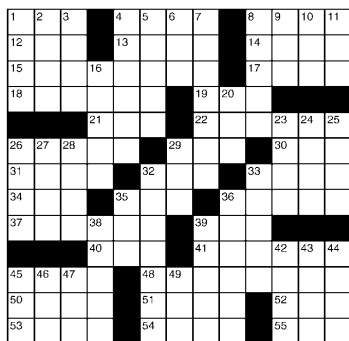
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Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Food container
- 4 Dressed
- 8 Beanbag-chair sound
- 12 "All the Things You —"
- 13 It's over your head
- 14 Slush
- 15 Multiply by six
- 17 Groucho-like look
- 18 Spuds
- 19 Big flap
- 21 Expert
- 22 Vicente Fox's land
- 26 Opposite of "go"
- 29 Charlotte's creation
- 30 Train component
- 31 Easy gait
- 32 Standard
- 33 Titantic problem
- 34 Smelttery input
- 35 Predicament
- 36 Tea holder
- 37 Cartoon kid with a laboratory
- 39 Nursery item
- 40 Italian article
- 41 In the neighborhood
- 45 Fairy-tale baddie
- 48 Having a particular surface
- 50 "What's — for me?"
- 51 Pennsylvania port
- 52 Public radio's Glass

Down

- 3 Throw
- 2 Vicinity
- 3 Barbershop call
- 4 House of worship
- 5 Omission
- 6 Have a bug
- 7 Visionary
- 8 Moss pink, e.g.
- 9 Gaffer's concern
- 10 Metrical tribute
- 11 According to
- 16 Rib
- 20 Society newbie
- 23 Carol Higgins
- 24 Check for proof of age
- 25 Wanton revelry
- 26 Lummock
- 27 Traditional tales
- 28 Pinnacle
- 29 Depilation method
- 32 Penance crew
- 33 Ronstadt's was
- 35 Swamp
- 36 Conqueror of 22-Across
- 38 Massachusetts school
- 39 Urban fleet
- 42 "Exodus" author
- 43 Pianist Peter
- 44 Moment of truth, maybe
- 45 Inseparable
- 47 Brightened up
- 49 Tide competitor

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-11 CRYPTOQUIP

BIDV GPR ODSEOD UP

YRZSICHD GPRZ PBV IPZHD.

GPR BEMM DADVRCMMG

ICAD UP YPVG RY.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: HAVE YOU HEARD THAT THE VANDALS DESTROYED ROAD SIGNS, PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals P

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Chrys Trucks 174

new custom, cab 15 truck
1996 truck, 327 v-8 auto
transmission, bed all steel
new, air intake truck \$14,500
new, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
6.0 4.8, 9.2 2.18 0.1
0.175-716-5252

Trucks Tacoma TRD Limited
Edition, 2 wheel drive, 4
cyl, 1600 cc, 2000, 2001, 2002
wholes, Air intake, 2000
0.175-716-5252

Auto Parts 180

need 1995 Isuzu, Nissans parts
info appreciated! height
175-630595

Minuteman Military M4/M16
parts, 2000-2004, 2005, 2006
Equipment on 3 Series BMW
800.00, 0175-778-7773

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dogies, 1998, 3500, 3500
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Auto Repairs 182

Need Your Transmission or
Engine Overhaul? Call John
017-843994

Beauty 210

need of being a beautician?
training, bid, 110 00 you can
take a class in the original
0175-716-5252

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Child Care/Education 190

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speaking Nanny with experi-
ence 0175-716-5252

Experienced Nanny and Pet
sitter, 2000-2004, 2005, 2006
References call 0175-716-5252

Experienced Nanny English
American native, 2000-2004,
2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
0175-716-5252

Need dependable childcare?
2000-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007,
2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
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Child Care/Education 245

Wanted: Responsible and ma-
terial babysitter for well be-
haved child in Bloomington.
Many weekends. Earn up to
\$7.00 per hr with proof of ACS
or Red Cross certification. Call
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Live in Nanny wanted for
5-year-old child, English speak-
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2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011,
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
0175-716-5252

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RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



Rusty Wallace, right, who plans to retire from full-time competition after this season, is tired of the week-to-week grind of the 10-month Nextel Cup season. Wallace plans to focus on his family as well as his Busch Series team and car dealership when he's done racing full-time.

'Rusty's Last Call'

Wallace chasing Cup one more time before semi-retirement

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

Rusty Wallace never said he wouldn't race again. He even wonders at times if he's making the right decision to retire from full-time NASCAR competition after the 2005 season.

When he can't sleep, Wallace stares at the ceiling in the middle of the night thinking about things he did in the past, or what he'll do when he's not racing 10 months a year.

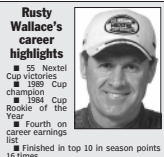
"I'm all over," he said of his thoughts. "Honestly, I'm not content at all."

But the 48-year-old Wallace is sure about one thing: He's tired of the week-to-week grind.

"I'm retiring because I'm just burnt out in the schedule," he said. "If I get through the end of 2005, and I feel like, 'Man, I'm running 3,000 mph and now they tell me I've got to stop,' I'm probably going to say let's run about 10 [races the next year]. But for sure, my days of running the full schedule are over."

After one more championship chase, that is.

Wallace began this season with



■ 55 Nextel Cup victories

■ 1989 Cup champion

■ 1994 Cup Rookie of the Year

■ Fourth on career earnings list

■ Finished in top 10 in season points 15 times

a 14th-place finish in the Budweiser Shootout. His 22nd Nextel Cup season, which has been dubbed "Rusty's Last Call," officially got under way with a 10th-place finish in the Daytona 500, the race he can't claim among his 55 wins and the one he wanted the most.

"I wanted to win this race, but that's OK," said Wallace, who started 36th and advanced all the way to fifth before dropping back. "It really isn't OK, but I told everybody if I didn't win, it wouldn't be the end of the world. ... I'm done with it. I've had a lot of fun, and I enjoy it."

Wallace, who wrecked during Daytona qualifying and had to switch to his backup car, finished

in the top 10 nine times in 23 Daytona 500s.

His best finish in NASCAR's most prestigious race was third in 2001. He led another time with 10 laps to go, and in 1993 was third "with me, Dale Jarrett and (Dale) Earnhardt going for the win" when he was hit by another car and barrel-rolled down the backstretch.

"I haven't won the Daytona 500 and I doubt there's too many people out there who are not aware of that fact," said Wallace, the 1989 series champion and fourth on the career earnings list with nearly \$44 million. "I got close many, many times."

Still, his farewell season is about more than that elusive Daytona win. And forget nostalgia, Wallace wanted to approach 2005 like any other year.

"I'm real intent to try to win more races," he said. "I want to go out on top. I don't want to go out fading. ... I'm going to be rockin' and rollin' and go wide open all year."

Wallace has finished top 10 in season points 16 times. He ended a 105-race winless streak last year but was still 16th, two spots

lower than in 2003 when a streak of 10 straight top-10 seasons ended.

"You always hear about the importance of making first impressions," he said. "But for us, we're determined to leave some great last impressions."

Once full-time driving is done, Wallace won't be bored.

He hopes the Busch Series team he owns, running its first full schedule this year, will be a championship contender by 2006.

He also will spend more time on his car dealership business and with 17-year-old son Stephen, an aspiring NASCAR driver who will race in the Hotlers Pro Cup Series this year.

Not to mention more time with his wife, Patti, playing golf and his duties as part-owner of the Penske team.

"What I'm going to have to do is just get in and go, and figure it out as I go," Wallace said. "We'll adjust as the year goes on. I've never gone one year in my life where I've been able to plan two years ahead. For me, to plan two weeks ahead is pretty tough for me."

"There will be a lot of excitement. Sometimes there will be tears in your beer."

NEXTEL CUP

Race 2:

UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400
Las Vegas Speedway
8 p.m. Sunday CET,
A.M. Pacific.

Last race: Greg Biffle took the lead on lap 228 and held off a hard-charging Jimmie Johnson to win the Auto Club 500 at Fontana, Calif., on Feb. 27. Biffle came back from as far as 30th place.

Last year: Matt Kenseth won his second straight race by taking the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400.

Driver to watch: Matt Kenseth

The 2003 Cup champion has won the past two Nextel Cup races at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, finishing 25th and 17th. Kenseth finished 26th at Fontana on Feb. 27 and was next to last in the Daytona 500, he drives a Ford, a make that has won five of the seven Nextel Cup races in Las Vegas.



DRIVER STANDINGS

After 2 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch	340
2. Jimmie Johnson	335
3. Mark Martin	301
4. Carl Edwards	257
5. Greg Biffle	273
6. Elliott Sauter	272
7. Tony Stewart	268
8. Rusty Wallace	268
9. Sterling Marlin	260
10. Jeff Gordon	258
11. Dale Jarrett	248
12. Ryan Newman	246
13. Kevin Harvick	239
14. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	237
15. Mike Bliss	236
16. Kyle Petty	231
17. Jamie McMurray	227
18. Scott Riggs	224
19. Kevin Lepage	208
20. Brian Vickers	205

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Sam's Town 300 at Las Vegas (race delayed, 9 a.m. CET Sunday).

Last race: Defending champion Martin Truex Jr. won the Australian Grand Prix in a weekend highlighted by rule changes and a sudden drop in qualifying that ended Michael Schumacher's hopes of defending his title.

Next race: Aaron's 312, March 19, Hampton, Ga.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Italian Giancarlo Fisichella won the season-opening Australian Grand Prix in a weekend highlighted by rule changes and a sudden drop in qualifying that ended Michael Schumacher's hopes of defending his title.

Next race: Malaysian Grand Prix, March 20, Kuala Lumpur.

INDY RACING

Last race: Dan Wheldon led 158 of 200 laps en route to a dominant win in the season-opening Toyota Indy 300 at Homestead.

Next race: XM Satellite Radio Indy 300, March 15, Avondale, Ariz.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCKS

Last race: Steve Park earned his first truck series win by taking the season-opening Craftsman Truck Series 200 at Fontana, Calif., on Feb. 25. Park's first victory came in the Nextel Cup series in February 2001, seven months after he won the Craftsman Truck Series.

Next race: Mobil 1 Financial Group 200, March 18, Hampton, Ga.

Standings for other series on Page 32.

Congress subpoenas baseball players

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Major League Baseball may be convinced that its new, get-tough policy is enough to rid the sport of steroids.

Congress, apparently, is not. Less than two months after baseball and its players hailed the banned-substances plan — and just a few days after testing began at spring training — a House committee called in a handful of the sport's biggest stars to explain themselves, including Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

Baseball balked at the subpoenas issued Wednesday for a total of seven players to testify at the March 17 hearing of the House Government Reform Committee and to agree to take the fight to court, if necessary. The committee also demanded a variety of documents and records of baseball's drug tests.

Stanley Brand, a lawyer for the baseball commissioner's office, said the committee had no jurisdiction, was trying to violate his first amendment privacy rights, and was attempting to "satisfy their prurient interest into who may and may not have engaged in this activity."

Reacting to Brand's comments, committee spokesman David Marin said: "Mr. Brand has his facts wrong. He failed to recognize that House rules give this committee the authority to investigate any matter at any time, and we are authorized to request or compel testimony and document production related to any investigation." "It's a shame that Major League Base-

Panel chair calls for all U.S. sports to adopt a single drug-testing plan

ball has resorted to hiding behind 'legalese' — and inaccurate 'legalese' at that.

On Thursday, the chairman of a House panel said that all major U.S. sports leagues should work toward a single testing plan.

"Our elite athletic organizations, both professional and amateur, should establish uniform, world-class, drug-testing standards that are as credible and robust as our criminal laws in this area," said Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla. "Nothing less should be tolerated."

Stearns' comments came at the opening of a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee he chairs. Labor lawyers from Major League Baseball and the National Football League were to testify later.

The other players subpoenaed to appear next week were Jose Canseco — who recently published a book outlining allegations of steroid use by McGwire and others — Jason Giambi, Curt Schilling, Rafael Palmeiro and Frank Thomas. Also called were players' association head Donald Fehr, baseball executive vice presidents Rob Manfred and Sandy Alderson, and San Diego Padres general manager Kevin Towers.

Canseco, Fehr and Manfred have agreed to testify, with Manfred appearing on behalf of commissioner Bud Selig. Before the subpoenas were issued, Brand told the committee the other players were declining invitations to appear.

Hearing will take place as scheduled.

Under pressure from Congress and under the shadow of a grand jury investigation into an alleged steroid-distribution ring, Major League Baseball and its players' association agreed in January to tougher steroid-testing program. The agreement will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

Ownership and the union patted themselves on the back when the deal was struck, with Fehr saying at the time: "I will be surprised if over time this doesn't take care of the problem virtually completely."

Even Sen. John McCain, who had threatened baseball with legislation if it didn't strengthen its drug policy, sounded satisfied back in January: "It appears to be a significant breakthrough."

On Saturday, Selig announced that the number of positive tests for steroids in baseball dropped to between 1 to 2 percent last season.

"I am very confident that we will effec-

tively rid our sport of steroids in this coming season," he said.

But committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis and ranking Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman said in a statement Wednesday that "we need to better understand the steps MLB is taking to get a handle on the steroid issue, and whether news of those steps — and the public health danger posed by steroid use — is reaching America's youth."

Stearns' House Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection subcommittee also was scheduled to hear from Donald Hooton of Plano, Texas, whose son was a steroid user and committed suicide, and Dr. Ralph Hale, chairman of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which oversees drug testing for Olympic sports.

Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, Joe Barton, R-Texas, said this could be the first of a series of hearings on the issue and that at some point subpoenas might be issued for commissioners of the major sports leagues.

"The time has come to put an end to this mess and reclaim sports as competition," he said.

Barton said use of performance-enhancing drugs is tainting sports and its stars, noting that as San Francisco Giants star Barry Bonds pursues the career home run record there are questions about whether he has been aided by steroids.

"With Babe Ruth, people didn't worry about him taking steroids. They worried him eating another hot dog," Barton said.

Associated Press Writer Larry Marjapak in Washington and AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

Bonds works on fielding skills

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Bonds' swing looks ready to be tested in an exhibition game. The status of his recovering right knee remains uncertain.

Bonds took batting practice for the third straight day Wednesday and also shagged flyballs in left field for the first time all spring, a sign that he's progressing in his rehabilitation from arthroscopic knee surgery on Jan. 31.

The San Francisco slugger had four turns in the batter's box at Scottsdale Stadium before the rest of the Giants headed to Phoenix to play the Oakland Athletics.

With hitting coach Joe Lefebvre looking on, Bonds hit four home runs, all to right field or right-center. One hit a tree.

"It's like Ted Williams used to hit," manager Felipe Alou said. "He picks up the bat, hits the line drives and puts the ball over the fence. He's still favoring his knee a bit, but the timing is there."

Between hitting sessions, Bonds smiled as he leaned against the backstop, and took a few practice swings while waiting his turn.

Bonds hollered at himself in frustration after some swings, but made contact on nearly everything he saw.

In left field, he shagged balls for about five minutes, even making a behind-the-back catch. The 40-year-old Bonds expects to be activated on opening day, April 5 against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Back at his locker for a brief break to change shoes for a work-

Spring training

out and to undergo rehab on his knee, Bonds let out a sigh and said, "I'm too tired."

Bonds begins his 20th big league season with 703 homers, third on the career list behind Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755).

At Mesa, Ariz., rather than risking serious injury, Kerry Wood figured it was safer to cut short his start after experiencing tightness in his shoulder. Wood felt tightness during the second inning of the Chicago Cubs' 6-5 loss to the Texas Rangers, but finished the inning. He stopped while warming up for the third and walked off the field after talking with a trainer. He called his exit from the game "precautionary."

"The injury before, I felt tightness in the shoulder," Wood said. "Everything felt great. I came in and sat down, and everything felt great. It was just a little bit of tightness, and it's too early to be messing around with anything right now. We thought it would be best to shut it down for the day."

Wood missed the entire 1999 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery and he was out for two months last year with tendinitis in his right triceps. Wood was examined Wednesday by a team doctor and Cubs trainer Mark O'Neal, who described the ailment as "generic shoulder tightness."

Wood said he would be able to make his scheduled start Monday against the Chicago White Sox.

At Sarasota, Fla., the Cincinnati Reds announced center fielder Ken Griffey Jr. will play Thursday for the first time this spring after taking a slow approach to his rehabilitation from a torn hamstring. The Reds plan to use Griffey as a designated hitter in their home game against the Detroit Tigers after receiving permission from the league and the Tigers. He also has permission to be the DH in Cincinnati's next three home games.

"It gives me a chance to see some live pitches, to work more on timing," Griffey said.

At Fort Myers, Fla., the Boston Red Sox expect Wade Miller to make his first start of the season while he rehabilitates from a shoulder injury. He spent the last three months of last season on the disabled list with Houston. The Red Sox, hoping he could improve a rotation that lost Pedro Martinez and Derek Lowe, signed him as a free agent.

"I know I don't want to miss that much time again," Miller said. "So I decided to take it slow now and make the beginning of the season and, hopefully, come back for the last five months."

Heavy rains across Florida prompted the cancellation of all 10 exhibition games scheduled for Wednesday.

In Kissimmee, Roger Clemens threw 60 pitches in a simulated game rather than wait to see if the Houston Astros and Atlanta Braves would play.

Royals 6, Mariners 0: At Surprise, Jose Lima gave up five sin-



AP

Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, who is recovering from knee surgery, took part in fielding drills Wednesday for the first time this spring.

gles and walked three in three innings for Kansas City. Angel Berroa had three hits — two doubles — two RBIs and two runs scored.

Athletics 5, Giants 1: At Phoenix, Giants ace Jason Schmidt allowed three hits in three innings with three strikeouts and a walk.

Bye-bye, BC

West Virginia bounces ACC-bound Eagles from Big East tournament

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Gansey scored 21 points and West Virginia hung on to upset No. 7 Boston College 78-72 in the Big East tournament Thursday, ruining the Eagles' bid for a final conference championship.

Kevin Pittsnogle added 17 points for the Mountaineers (20-9), who very likely wrapped up an NCAA tournament at-large bid with the surprising victory over the Big East's top seed.

West Virginia, seeded No. 8, improved to 3-8 in the tournament and advanced to its first semifinal — against the winner of the Villanova-Pittsburgh game — Friday night at Madison Square Garden.

Craig Smith scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Boston College (24-4), which leaves the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference after this season. The Eagles, who shared the regular-season title with Connecticut, sputtered through their last eight games, going just 4-4 and possibly hurting their chance of a top-3 seed.

West Virginia led 47-22 before BC rallied, closing within 62-58 before the Mountaineers put it away with three baskets inside the last minute.

In Wednesday's games:

Rutgers 72, Notre Dame 65: Ricky Shields scored 21 points, including the first run by Rutgers in a losing 8-0 first in Rutgers (10-18).

The loss may have ended the

NCAA tournament at-large hopes for Notre Dame (17-11), which has lost four of five.

Shields scored on a drive with 1:15 left to give the Scarlet Knights the lead for good at 66-65. He then stole the ball from Colin Falls and went the length of the court for a layup with 57 seconds left.

Georgetown 56, Seton Hall 51: Darrell Owens was perfect on four three-point attempts and scored all 14 of his points over the final eight minutes as Georgetown (17-11) snapped a five-game losing streak.

The seventh-seeded Hoyas had to win to have any chance at an at-large berth in the NCAA tournament. Their next opponent is second-seeded and 12th-ranked Connecticut (21-6) in the quarterfinals Thursday night.

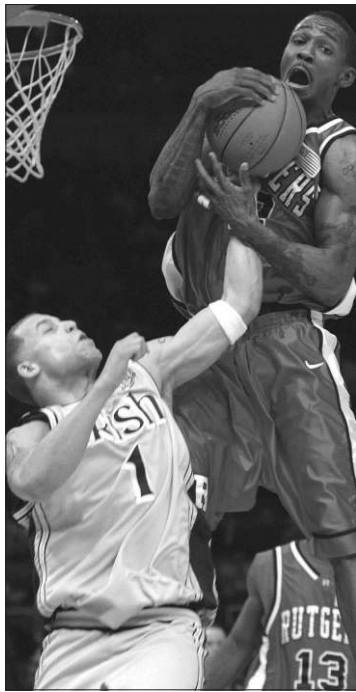
Owens' first three-point ended a 7-42 drought without a field goal and brought the Hoyas within 44-36 with 7:59 left.

His third three, with 3:37 left, cut the deficit to 49-46 and his last gave Georgetown the lead for good at 51-49 with 1:02 left.

West Virginia 82, Providence 59: Kevin Pittsnogle matched his career high with five three-pointers and finished with 24 points for the Mountaineers (19-9).

The eighth-seeded Mountaineers played top-seeded and seventh-ranked Boston College (24-3) on Thursday in the quarterfinals at Madison Square Garden.

West Virginia may have clinched an NCAA tournament berth with its seventh victory in nine games, a stretch that included two victories over nationally ranked Pittsburgh.



Rutgers' Ricky Shields (2) grabs a rebound away from Notre Dame's Chris Thomas (1) during Wednesday night's Big East tournament game at Madison Square Garden. Rutgers advanced with a 72-65 victory.

La Salle tips Massachusetts in overtime

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jermaine Thomas and Mike St. John scored all 11 points in overtime to lead La Salle to a 70-64 victory over Massachusetts in the first round of the Atlantic 10 tournament.

La Salle (10-18), which finished last in the conference's West Division, played the last two minutes of regulation and the overtime period without leading scorer Steven Smith, who left with an eye injury after scoring 19 points.

St. John broke a 6-1 tie with a reverse layup after his first shot was blocked. He was 4-for-4 in overtime, and Thomas hit three free throws in four attempts in the final 49 seconds.

Rashaun Freeman had 19 points for UMass (16-12), which came from 12 down to force overtime. The Minutemen had won five games in overtime this season, one short of the NCAA record set by Wake Forest in 1983-1984.

Richmond 68, Rhode Island 60: Kevin Steenberge scored 22

Conference tourneys

points as Richmond (14-14) won an Atlantic 10 tournament matchup of teams with losing records.

Jermaine Bucknor added 17 points and Andres Sandoval added 10, six coming on free throws in the final minute.

Will Daniels had 22 points for Rhode Island (6-22), which lost 11 of its last 13 games and finished 1-13 away from home.

Fordham 65, Duquesne 53: Freshman Marcus Stout scored a season-high 31 points and Fordham (13-15) finally earned an Atlantic 10 tournament victory in its 10th try.

Fordham had lost the opener each year since joining the conference in the 1995-1996.

Duquesne (8-22) was 0-for-21 on three-pointers and lost for the third time in four games.

Dayton 78, St. Bonaventure 48: Norman Plummer scored 18 points and Dayton (18-10) earned

a rematch with Temple in the second round of the A-10 tourney.

Dayton (18-10), which finished third in the West Division, dropped a 78-70 decision last month to Temple, which was second in the East Division.

Michael Lee scored 14 points for St. Bonaventure (2-26).

Big West

UC Irvine 80, Idaho 67: At Anaheim, Calif., Aaron Fitzgerald scored a career-high 30 points on 9-for-15 shooting to lead UC Irvine into the second round of the Big West tournament.

UC Irvine (16-12), seeded fifth, plays fourth-seeded Cal State Northridge in the second round. Idaho (8-22) closed within three after Lionel Davis completed a three-point play with 2:26 to play, but Fitzgerald stopped the rally with his sixth three-point of the game, putting the Antelopes up 73-67 with 1:59 to play.

UC Santa Barbara 55, Long Beach 52: Joe See scored 19 points — 14 in the second half —

as UC Santa Barbara overcame a 12-point second-half deficit.

See, held without a field goal in the first half, went 3-for-4 from behind the three-point line in the second half for the Gauchos (11-17).

Long Beach (10-20) led 43-31 with 12:32 to play after an 11-1 run featuring eight points by Jibril Hodges. Santa Barbara rebounded by scoring the next 11 points, the start of a 21-3 surge.

MEAC

Hampton 81, Florida A&M 72: At Richmond, Va., Jeff Granger scored 26 points and Devin Green added 24 as Hampton (16-12) advanced to the second round of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament.

Delaware St. 66, Bethune-Cookman 43: Darin Shine scored 13 points and Aaron Williams and Jaisha Blunt each added 12 to lead Delaware State (17-13), which jumped to a 17-3 lead and cruised from there over Bethune-Cookman (6-20).

TCU stops Marquette; DePaul's skid ends

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Corey Santee's three-pointer with 12.8 seconds gave Texas Christian a 60-57 overtime victory against Marquette in the opening round of the Conference USA tournament Wednesday, keeping alive the Horned Frogs' hopes of an NCAA tournament bid and severely damaging Marquette's hopes.

Aaron Curtis' free throw tied it 57-57 with 18.8 seconds to go, leaving Marquette (19-11) plenty of time to go for a final shot. But Marcus Sloan slapped away the inbound pass — the last of Marquette's 23 turnovers — and got the ball to Santee for the deciding basket.

Marquette still had time for a tying shot, but Steve Novak mis-handled the ball at the top of the key and couldn't get off a shot before time expired.

DePaul 81, Tulane 71: Sammy Mejia and Quement Greer each scored 18 points as DePaul (19-9) snapped a two-game losing streak just in time to keep its NCAA tournament hopes alive.

Drake Diener added 14 points for DePaul and Draelon Burns had 10 points.

Tulane (10-18) had snapped a five-game winning skid by beating East Carolina last weekend to earn the No. 12 seed, but the Green Wave had little left for the tournament.

Tulane closed to 37-30 with 2:11 left in the half, but Diener hit two three-pointers and Burns added another three with 39.7 seconds left for a 46-32 halftime lead. DePaul eventually pushed the margin to 65-46 after a bucket by Jamal Nichols with 12:34 to go and coasted home.

Memphis 79, Saint Louis 55: Rodney Carney ended his shooting slump with 22 points and Jeremy Hunt added 22 for Memphis (17-14), which ended a fobe game losing streak that doomed its hopes for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Carney, who'd missed 18 of his last 35 shots, missed only one of nine Wednesday and hit all three of his three-point attempts.

Luke Meyer had 12 points to lead Saint Louis (9-21), which got no closer than 20 points in the final 8:38.

South Florida 69, Houston 64: Terrence Leather, who finished with 25 points and 14 rebounds, hit a basket to snap a 64-64 tie with South Florida in the Big 20 (13-15) ended the NCAA hopes of Houston (18-13) and first-year coach Tom Penders.

Houston has lost eight straight games in March dating back to March 1, 2003.

Lanny Smith finished with 21 points for Houston.

Montana, Fairleigh Dickinson join the fun



Montana's Matt Dlouhy (40) blocks a shot by Weber State's Lance Allred during the first half of the Big Sky Conference tournament final.

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — As first-year coach Larry Krystkowiak sees it, the Montana Grizzlies are in the best possible position heading into the NCAA tournament. They're riding a six-game winning streak and they've already tasted a higher level of play against opponents such as Stanford and Gonzaga.

"I'm not sure we can compete with everybody, but we're going to go down swinging," he said. "We've got a game plan now, and we're going to take our best shot."

Montana earned a bid to the NCAA tournament by holding off Weber State's late rally for a 63-61 victory in the Big Sky Conference title game Wednesday night. Kamarr Davis had 19 points for the Grizzlies, who are making their first trip to the tournament since 2002, when they were eliminated in the first round by Oregon.

Montana, which claimed its fifth Big Sky postseason title, didn't have it easy against Weber State, which methodically clipped away at a 10-point second-half deficit.

Montana was up 54-44 with 4:17 left after Virgil Matthews' dunk.

The Wildcats narrowed it to 60-58 on Terrell Stovall's three-pointer with 1:03 left. Mon-

Conference finals

tana's Kevin Criswell missed a layup before Stovall was called for an offensive foul on the other end and the Grizzlies got the ball.

Matt Martin made both his free throws after getting fouled with 14.4 seconds left to make it 62-58, but Weber State's Coric Riggs hit a three-pointer with 4.2 seconds remaining. Davis was fouled with 28 seconds to go and added drama by missing his first free throw before hitting his second for the final margin.

"We just needed to keep our heads," Davis said. "Play hard, play smart and play together like coach has been preaching all year," he said.

Krystkowiak screamed and raised his hands in victory as his players celebrated at center court.

A 78-66 loss to Gonzaga and an 84-66 loss to Stanford merely served to toughen the Grizzlies.

"We're better now," Krystkowiak said. "We had a new staff and new players and were not sure where to hang our hats."

Criswell and Martin each added 11 points for the Grizzlies (18-12), who defeated Montana State 79-67 in the semifinals Tuesday.

Lance Allred had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Weber State (14-16), which upset top-seeded Portland State 71-61 to advance to the final.

"We had things going in the first half and couldn't finish it off," Weber State coach Joe Cravens said. "It's disappointing because we didn't play the way we have been."

Northeast

Fairleigh Dickinson 58, Wagner 52: At Hackensack, N.J., Italy's Andrea Crosariol took advantage of an injury to Wagner's best player to score 18 points and lead the second-seeded Knights to their first NCAA berth in seven years. The 7-foot center's performance was a two-point crossfire of his career high — and totally unexpected. He scored just two points in 31 minutes in the previous two tournament games, including zero in a semifinals.

Crosariol provided the big push going against Sean Munson, the Seahawks' leading scorer and rebounder. Munson averaged 17.5 points and 12 rebounds in two earlier games against Fairleigh Dickinson (20-8), but he was slowed by back spasms.

Durrell Vinson had 14 points and eight rebounds for Wagner (18-12), who was trying to cap an amazing turnaround after a 2-15 start.

Seeding, at-large slots no small chore this year

BY MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Choosing 34 teams to receive at-large bids to the NCAA tournament is always a difficult chore for the selection committee.

Committee chairman Bob Bowlsby believes the more daunting task this year will be seeding the field of 65.

On Wednesday, one day before the 10 committee members began meeting in Indianapolis, Bowlsby acknowledged in a conference call that sorting out the top half of the 65-team field might create the most debate.

"Between lines two and eight, it's going to be pretty muddy," Bowlsby said. "We've got a lot of work to do there."

The challenge has already begun.

Coaches at schools like Indiana and New Mexico are lobbying for spots in the tournament.

Analysts are arguing how to split up the three Atlantic Coast Conference teams ranked among the nation's top five. No. 4 Kentucky and No. 6 Louisville have now taken their bitter in-state rivalry to a national level, which could have big implications when this year's pairings are announced Sunday.

Want more? Try Oklahoma State and Kansas, two teams that stumbled late in the season but which played in the Big 12 a conference Bowlsby said has the No. 2 power ranking.

At this stage, the committee in-

sists nothing, not even Illinois as a top seed, is certain.

"While Illinois has had a foregone conclusion that they or anybody else is a No. 1 seed," Bowlsby said. "There's still a lot of basketball to be played."

Most of the major conference tournaments won't end until this weekend, making the committee's predicament even tougher.

Bowlsby, Iowa's athletic director whose Hawkeyes also are in contention for a bid, said the committee will closely monitor this week's games, especially those that pit teams like Indiana and Minnesota against one another. Both are so-called bubble teams and will meet for the third time Friday after splitting the first two meetings.

But it's not just the teams trying to get into the tournament that the committee will watch.

"There are times where we might say 'If A wins, we'll put them on the three line, and if B wins, we'll put them on the three line and A on the four line,'" Bowlsby said.

Everything appears debatable. The final choices will almost certainly draw some complaints. After five years on the committee, Bowlsby expects nothing less.

"I think there's more parity in college basketball and I think it's a better game. That makes it tougher," he said. "The selection process is like a block-charge call, somebody will always be unhappy."

Conference tournaments

America East		Big 12		Friday	
Championship Saturday		Thursday		Utah/Colorado State vs. UNLV/Wyoming New Mexico/BVU vs. Air Force/San Diego St.	
Northeastern at Vermont		Missouri 70, Nebraska 67 Iowa State vs. Baylor Texas A&M vs. Kansas State Texas vs. Colorado		Championship Saturday	
Atlantic Coast		Friday		Northeast	
Championship		Thursday		Championship Sunday	
Clemson 84, Maryland 72 North Carolina 51, Florida 51 Miami vs. Virginia		Oklahoma vs. Missouri Texas Tech vs. Iowa State/Baylor Kansas vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State Oklahoma State vs. Texas/Colorado		Fairleigh Dickinson 52, Wagner 52	
North Carolina vs. Clemson Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech Wake Forest vs. N.C. State/Oregon St. Duke vs. Miami/Virginia		Semifinals Sunday		Pac-10	
Semifinals Saturday		Championship		Thursday	
Championship		Big West		Arizona vs. California UCLA vs. Oregon State Washington vs. Arizona State Stanford vs. Washington State	
Sunday		UC Irvine 80, Long Beach 49 UC Santa Barbara 93, West Beach State 49 Cal Fullerton vs. UC Santa Barbara Cal Northridge vs. UC Irvine		Semifinals Saturday	
Atlantic 10		Thursday		Championship Sunday	
Championship		Friday		Patriot	
Richmond 68, Rhode Island 60 La Salle 70, Massachusetts 64, OT Fordham 65, Duquesne 63 Dayton 78, St. Bonaventure 48		Friday		Championship Sunday	
St. Joseph's 63, Richmond 51 Temple vs. Dayton Geo. Washington vs. Fordham		Conference USA		Bucknell at Holy Cross	
Semifinals Saturday		Thursday		Southeastern	
Championship		Friday		Thursday	
Big East		Saturday		Mississippi 53, South Carolina 52 Mississippi State vs. Georgia Arkansas vs. Tennessee Vanderbilt vs. Auburn	
West Virginia 59, Providence 59 Georgetown 56, Seton Hall 51 Rutgers 72, Notre Dame 41		Texas Christian 60, Marquette 57, OT DePaul 81, Tulane 77 Memphis 79, Saint Louis 59 South Florida 69, Houston 64		Alabama vs. Mississippi Florida vs. Mississippi St./Georgia Kentucky vs. Arkansas LSU vs. Vanderbilt/Arkansas State	
Quarterfinals		Louisville 85, TCU 51 AIA-Birmingham vs. DePaul Marquette vs. Memphis Cincinnati vs. South Florida		Semifinals Sunday	
Friday		Semifinals Saturday		Championship Sunday	
Championship		Mid-American		Southland	
Thursday		Thursday		Thursday	
Villanova vs. Pittsburgh Connecticut vs. Georgetown Syracuse vs. Notre Dame		Buffalo 85, Toledo 72 W. Michigan vs. Akron Miami (Ohio) vs. Bowling Green Ohio vs. Kent State		Lamar at Northwestern State Alabama A&M vs. Ark. State at Louisiana	
Semifinals Saturday		Friday		Championship Sunday	
Championship		Semifinals Saturday		Southwestern Athletic	
Big Sky		Championship		Thursday	
Championship		Mid-Eastern Athletic		Saturday	
Montana vs. Weber St.		Thursday		Saturday	
Big Ten		Friday		Saturday	
Championship		Saturday		Saturday	
Northwestern 58, Michigan 56 Iowa vs. Purdue Ohio State vs. Penn State		Delaware State 66, Bethune-Cookman 43 Hampton 81, Florida A&M 72 South Carolina St. vs. Norfolk St. Coppin St. vs. Morgan State		Ark. State 57, Mississippi Valley 55 Greensboro vs. Southern Alabama St. vs. Prairie View A&M Alabama A&M vs. Ark. State at Bluff	
Illinois vs. Northwestern Minnesota vs. Wisconsin Michigan State vs. Iowa/Purdue Wisconsin vs. Ohio State/Penn State		Semifinals Friday		Championship Sunday	
Semifinals Sunday		Championship		Western Athletic	
Championship		Mountain West		Thursday	
Sunday		Thursday		Saturday	
Friday		Friday		Saturday	
UNLV vs. Colorado St. UNLV vs. Wyoming New Mexico vs. Brigham Young Air Force vs. San Diego St.		Utah/Colorado State vs. UNLV/Wyoming New Mexico/BVU vs. Air Force/San Diego St.		Texas-Et Paso vs. Hawaii Utah vs. Southern Methodist Fresno State vs. Louisiana Tech New Mexico vs. Boise State	
Semifinals Saturday		Semifinals Saturday		Semifinals Friday	
Championship		Championship		Championship Saturday	



Shaquille O'Neal (center) is not having a career season statistically-wise, but three of his teammates are, and the Eastern Conference-leading Miami Heat have improved by 20 victories in one season.

Shaq's impact

Miami's center a top MVP candidate

BY ISRAEL GUTIERREZ

The Miami Herald

If the decision were left to Bulls coach Scott Skiles, Kevin Garnett wouldn't be coming into Miami on Thursday as the NBA's reigning Most Valuable Player.

"I'm of the school of thought that Shaq should be MVP every year," Skiles said before the Heat played the Bulls on Feb. 22.

Skiles' reasoning is that no player has an impact on his team like Shaquille O'Neal, making his value incomparable. If that is the criteria, O'Neal might have one of his best cases to win the award.

Consider that last year's MVP, Garnett, is entering the final stretch of the season struggling just to make the playoffs; Minnesota was the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference last season.

The Heat, meanwhile, traded three integral parts of last year's playoff team to acquire O'Neal, and replaced them with complementary role players. The result thus far has been a 20-win improvement on a team now considered a legitimate title contender.

If that alone doesn't make him the front-runner to win the award, it at least places him among the favorites along with Steve Nash and Tim Duncan. Even without the eye-popping statistics for O'Neal this season, his value remains unquestioned.

"It's not just that he's better," Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said. "As my brother (Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy) says, Shaq just screws up the entire game. We see it every day in practice. There are drills we can't do if he's on offense because you can't play your normal defense against him and have any success. So if we want to work on our defense, I've got to put him on the Shaqmaster."

When O'Neal won the MVP award in 2000, his statistics matched his impact. He averaged 29.7 points, 13.6 rebounds and 3.03 blocks.

By comparison, this season seems like a down one for O'Neal, who is scoring 22.4 points with 10.2 rebounds and 2.45 blocks. But there are more telling numbers to measure O'Neal's influence.

Damon Jones, who has never averaged more than seven points a game, is averaging 11.4 this season. Christian Laettner, a career 48 percent shooter, is hitting 59 percent. Udonis Haslem, who shot 46 percent his rookie year on 447 shot attempts, is up to 54 percent this season in 517 attempts.

Does any player make his teammates better at such a significant rate?

"I don't think so," Jones said. "I think that Tim Duncan is a close second, and Kevin Garnett is a distant third."

"Dryane Wade is having a career year. I'm having a career year, Udonis is having a super year and the list goes on and on and on of the guys he has helped since he has been here."

Van Gundy said O'Neal's winning percentage solidifies his case.

"If you go back to the games that he's played in, he's close to winning 70 percent of the games that he's played in," Van Gundy said. "About the only other guy in this league that you can even talk about in terms of that is Duncan and his effect."

"Shaq even supersedes that." O'Neal, though, says he is not interested in winning another regular-season MVP award.

"If you're the best player in the league, I think you should be able to win a championship a couple times," O'Neal said. "A lot of times, the guys that win MVP haven't won championships. I was lucky enough to win MVP and win championships a couple times, which makes it a little bit validated."

O'Neal does acknowledge Garnett is one of the best players in the league, but he said he couldn't imagine being in his prime and struggling to make the playoffs. The Timberwolves entered Thursday's half-game out of eighth place in the Western Conference.

"Never, never, never," O'Neal said.

Neither could his teammates. "You never know," Shandon Anderson said. "But with him, I doubt it. I think he's guaranteed a playoff spot regardless."

The Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Michael Walchhofer won the World Cup downhill title Thursday after finishing fourth in the season's final race, while American Bode Miller stretched his lead for the overall title with a second-place showing.

Miller gained 80 points to extend his lead over Austrian Benjamin Raich to 128 points in the overall standings. Miller and Raich will compete in the remaining three races: super giant slalom, giant slalom and slalom. Miller will clinch the title in Friday's super-G if he wins the race and Raich finishes out the top 15.

Norway's Lasse Kjus won Thursday's race in 1 minute 24.09 seconds for his first World Cup downhill victory in over a year. Miller, who needed to win to have a chance to take the downhill season title, was 0.14 behind and finished 63 points behind Walchhofer. Fritz Strobl of Austria was third in 1:24.27.

Goetschl wins downhill title

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Renate Goetschl of Austria won the final race of the season to clinch the women's World Cup downhill title Thursday, capturing the trophy for the fourth time in her career.

Goetschl entered the race with a 32-point lead over Germany's Hilde Gerg, who finished third in Thursday's race and 72 points behind Goetschl.

American Lindsey Kildow had a remote chance to win the downhill title but crashed Thursday.

American Julia Mancuso, a multiple bronze medalist in the world championships, tied for fourth with Janica Kostelic of Croatia.

Anja Paerson's 63-point lead over Kostelic in the overall standings was cut to 45 with three races remaining — a super giant slalom, giant slalom and slalom.

Eis trails by seven in Qatar

DOHA, Qatar — Pierre Fulke of Sweden shot 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the Qatar Masters. Jimmie Els, the only player ranked in the top 50 in the field, struggled to a 73.

Top panelist that investigated CU said commission was flted

PUEBLO, Colo. — A leader of an independent commission that investigated the Colorado football recruiting scandal said the panel was "stabbed in the back" and that football coach Gary Barnett should be fired.

Joyce Lawrence, a former state legislator who was co-chairwoman of the panel, told The Pueblo Chieftain on Tuesday that Barnett and other athletic department officials never revealed the existence of a "slush fund" mentioned in a report by a grand jury that conducted a separate probe.

"We've been stabbed in the back. They knew what we wanted, but they didn't reveal that to us or [university president Eliza-



Austria's Michael Walchhofer won the World Cup downhill title.

abeth Hoffman] at the time," Lawrence said.

"Yes, Coach Barnett needs to be replaced," she added. "The football and athletic staff knew the [independent commission] wanted to know about all the money that was going into the program and they never told us about those cash boxes."

Both the independent commission and the grand jury investigated the football program last year and concluded that some players had arranged sex, drugs and alcohol for visiting athletes who were being recruited for the team.

The commission, which was appointed by the university's governing Board of Regents, issued a report in May criticizing Hoffman and others for lax oversight but did not call for anyone to be fired.

On Monday, Hoffman announced she was stepping down effective June 30 or when a successor is chosen.

Caruth's lawyers appeal to overturn conviction

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former Carolina Panthers wide receiver Rae Caruth returned to court Thursday in his latest attempt to overturn a 2001 conviction in the slaying of his pregnant girlfriend. The appeal in Mecklenburg Superior Court challenges the admission of key prosecution evidence during Caruth's trial in late 2000: a 911 call from girlfriend Cherise Adams following the shooting and what the 24-year-old victim told a police officer at the scene and hospital.

The defense claims Adams' statements are hearsay and their introduction into evidence during the murder trial violated Car-



Musher Paul Gebhardt leaves the checkpoint at Takotna, Alaska, during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Wednesday. The next checkpoint is the long-abandoned mining town of Iditarod, the race's halfway mark.

ruth's constitutional right to confront his accuser.

Caruth, a first-round draft pick of the Panthers out of Colorado, is serving a sentence of at least 18 years and 11 months.

Adams was eight months pregnant with Caruth's baby when she was gunned down in a drive-by shooting on Nov. 16, 1999, in south Charlotte. Doctors saved her son, Chancellor, in an emergency Caesarean. But Adams, shot four times, died a month later. Born prematurely and in distress, Chancellor has cerebral palsy.

R.I. legislators take up high-priced autographs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — After the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, some fans were willing to pay hundreds of dollars for memorabilia from the team.

Like other pro athletes before them, Red Sox players cashed in on their triumph by appearing at large-scale autograph signing events to meet fans and sell their signatures for upward of \$100.

A Senate committee on Thursday takes up legislation that would likely put a stop to such events in Rhode Island.

Armstrong drops out of Paris-Nice race

CRAPONNE-SUR-ARZON, France — Six-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong dropped out of the Paris-Nice race after the third stage with a sore throat.

Armstrong finished 99th in the stage Wednesday and said he wasn't feeling well.

Sorlie retains iditarod lead

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Norwegian Robert Sorlie held the lead in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, followed by two mushers who trailed him in his 2003 victory: Ranny Brooks and Jeff King.

Sorlie was first out of the Ophir checkpoint, leaving at 9:25 a.m. for the 90-mile run to the next checkpoint at the long-abandoned mining town of Iditarod.

Next out of Ophir on Wednesday was Brooks, who followed Sorlie at 10:31 a.m., and King, a three-time winner who departed the checkpoint at 11:09 a.m.

Next out of Ophir on Wednesday was Brooks, who followed Sorlie at 10:31 a.m., and King, a three-time winner who departed the checkpoint at 11:09 a.m.

SPORTS

Racing Stripes: Nextel Cup veteran Wallace has mixed feelings about last season behind the wheel full-time, Page 33



Army star Davis dead at 80

RB won Heisman in '46, helped Cadets win three national titles

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Glenn Davis, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1946 and helped lead Army to three national championships, died Wednesday. He was 80.

Davis died of complications from prostate cancer at his home in La Quinta, located about 110 miles east of Los Angeles, said his son, Ralph Davis.

Glenn Davis will be buried at West Point, near his former coach, Col. Earl "Red" Blaik, according to his son.

Davis starred as a halfback for Army when it won national titles in 1944 and 1945. The Cadets and Notre Dame played to a scoreless tie in 1946, and split the national championship.

Davis teamed with fullback Felix "Doc" Blanchard, the 1945 Heisman winner, as one of the most heralded backfields in the history of college football. He was known as "Mr. Outside" to Blanchard's "Mr. Inside."

Davis scored 59 touchdowns and gained 4,129 yards in rushing and receiving in his college career.

He still holds NCAA records for most yards gained per play in one season, averaging 11.5 yards per carry in 1945; 8.3 career yards per carry; and he and Blanchard share the record for most touchdowns (97) and points (585) scored by teammates in a career.

In 1946, Davis won the Heisman and was voted male athlete of the year by The Associated Press. Davis has the best voting record of any Heisman candidate, finishing second in 1944 and 1945 before winning the award.

"He was one of the best," said former Army guard Joe Steffy, who played with Davis in 1945 and 1946.

"He left an impression. The

first time I met him, I was in awe. What he meant to the military academy and the game of college football needs no explanation."

In 1944, after a famous season-ending win over Navy, Gen. Douglas MacArthur even took time out from his war duties to send this wire: "The greatest of all Army teams ... We have stopped the war to celebrate your magnificent success. MacArthur."

A telephone call to Blanchard's home near San Antonio, Texas, was answered by his granddaughter, who said he had already gone to bed. Blanchard won the Heisman in 1945.

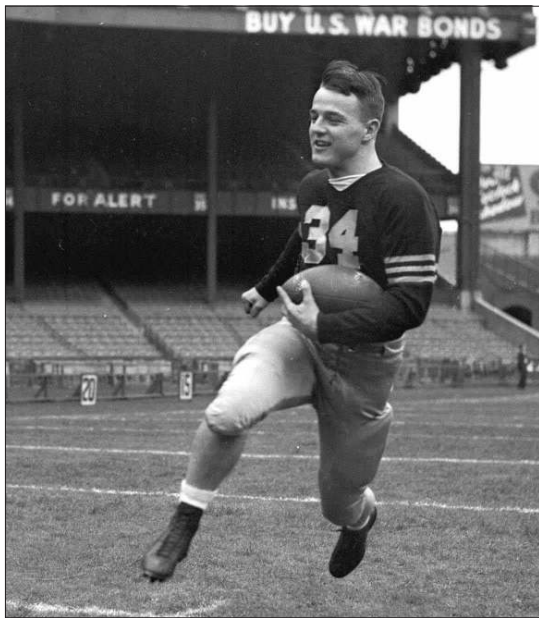
After serving his military obligation, Davis joined the Los Angeles Rams, playing on the team that won the 1951 NFL championship before a knee injury cut his career short in 1952.

Renowned for his lightning speed, Davis was coming off a record-breaking career at Bonita High School in LaVerne, Calif., where he scored an amazing 256 points during his senior year, when he was persuaded to play for Army in 1943.

The 5-9, 170-pounder became an instant star. Davis scored his first Army touchdown on a 4-yard run in a 27-0 season-opening win over Villanova, threw a touchdown pass in a 42-0 win over Colgate, ran 82 yards for a score in a 52-0 shellacking of Columbia, and returned a kick 75 yards for a touchdown in a 39-7 victory over Yale.

"He was the fastest man in football," Steffy said. "He was a great athlete, believe me."

Davis and Blanchard were national sports heroes, appearing on the cover of Time magazine in November 1945. Despite the accolades, Davis over the years showed a certain modesty about his prowess.



Army's Glenn Davis carries the ball in this Nov. 28, 1944 file photo in New York. Davis, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1946 and helped lead Army to a 27-0-1 record and three national championships from 1944 to 1946, died Wednesday of complications from prostate cancer at his home in La Quinta, Calif. He was 80.

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Montana, Fairleigh Dickinson win conferences, automatic bids to NCAA tournament

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Congressman says all pro leagues in U.S. should work toward common drug-testing policy

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With Duncan, Ginobili on bench, Spurs can't continue recent domination against Suns

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West Virginia knocks off BC in Big East tourney Page 36



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